

Wabash Plain Dealer

THURSDAY
NOVEMBER 7, 2019

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Shining light on Wabash County since 1859.



Pulse
of Wabash

Wabash Plain Dealer's new office now open

The Wabash Plain Dealer's new office is now open on the second floor at 99 W. Canal St.

Second Harvest tailgate planned for Friday

The Second Harvest Food Bank of East Central Indiana will provide food for families in need at a tailgate distribution from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, Nov. 8, at the Dallas L. Winchester Senior Center, Living Well in Wabash County, 239 Bond St.

Downtown businesses to extend hours on select dates

Participating shops will be open until 7 p.m. on the following dates: Nov. 8, 15, 17, 23, 24, 29 and 30. Dec. 6, 7, 12, 14, 15, 18, 19, 20 and 21.

VFW to host breakfast on Nov. 9

VFW Post #286 Wabash will be hosting a breakfast beginning at 8 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 9. All veterans eat free. Open to the public. Come join us as we honor our Veterans. Look for us at local businesses all week-end with our annual Poppy Drive, too.

VFW to host Veterans Day weekend concert

VFW Post #286 Wabash will host a concert from 8 p.m. to midnight Saturday, Nov. 9. Come honor and support our veterans and enjoy music by The Prime Suspects. Food, raffles, cold drinks, rock 'n' roll music and more will be available.

'Paper Making with Plants' event planned

Learn plant-based paper-making skills during a two-hour workshop, "Paper Making with Plants," at 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 9 at the Salamonie Interpretive Center, 3691 S. New Holland Road, Andrews. Call 260-468-2127 to register. Limited space is available. The cost is \$5 per person payable day of the event.

Holiday Bazaar planned for Saturday, Nov. 9

Zion Lutheran Church is

Mayor Long looks ahead to the next four years

New year will start with a new city council makeup

BY ROB BURGESS
rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com

When the dust settled Tuesday night, there was some change on the Wabash City Council, but Mayor Scott Long was re-elected without opposition to another four-year term on Election Day.

"(We're) still formulating what we want to do next four years. We're going to continue road projects, re-

paving and things of that nature. Try to attract foreign investment if possible, as well as other investments locally in the community to just keep pushing forward," said Long in a phone interview Wednesday.

For the Wabash City Council (At Large) race, Republicans John S. Burnsworth and Bryan Dillon were victorious over Democrat Dan Townsend. Burnsworth received 496 votes (42.83 percent), Dillon received 401 votes (34.63 percent) and Townsend received 261 votes (22.54 percent).

The rest of the Wabash City Council ran unopposed, including:

- District 1: Mitch Figert (R) – 107 votes.
- District 2: David W. Monroe (R) – 61 votes.
- District 3: Terry Brewer Jr. (R) – 104 votes.
- District 4: Susan Bonfitto (R) – 116 votes.
- District 5: Doug Adams (R) – 164 votes.

"I really don't see any major changes, even though we're swapping personnel on the City Council," said Long. "They'll keep pushing forward. They've seen what we've done in the last four years. Part of that was why they wanted to get involved and I think all the winners want to continue pushing the ball down the field and

keep making Wabash better than it is."

Lack of contested races county-wide

Only two other races in North Manchester were contested in Wabash County this year.

For the North Manchester Town Council District 1 (At Large) races, Republican Laura Rager received 312 votes (64.46 percent) to Independent Kevin Shambarger's 172 votes (35.54 percent).

For the North Manchester Town Council District 3 race (Chester 4), Republican Tom Dale received 330 votes (68.75 percent) to independent Michael J.

Larson's 150 votes (31.25 percent).

Most of the rest of the offices were uncontested Republican candidates.

"As I was a kid growing up in Wabash, the Democrat(ic) Party pretty much dominated. And even in national elections throughout the years, you'll see the pendulum swing from one party to the other. Maybe it's swinging in a Republican favor right now," said Long.

Republican dominance in state, county

The Indiana Republican Party achieved a new record in this year's municipal

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PHOTOS BY ROB BURGESS / Plain Dealer

CROWDS: November's First Friday saw an estimated 600 guests downtown Nov. 1, more than expected.

November First Friday a success

Estimated 600 guests braved lower temperatures

BY ROB BURGESS
rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com

November's First Friday saw an estimated 600 guests downtown Nov. 1, more than expected.

In response to a Plain Dealer request Tuesday, Andrea Zwiebel, executive director of Wabash Marketplace, stated November's First Friday is usually smaller, "due to the proximity of other events."

"This free event features downtown shopping, food, live music and children's activities," according to an Oct. 23 press release.

She said around 2,000 people attended the Trick or Treat Extravaganza just days before.

December's First Friday is still in the works. Zwiebel stated the Wabash Rotary Club will host free ice skating again on Mi-



SIGNS: After December, the next First Friday won't be until February.

ami Street. There will also be an outdoor winter market with vendors.

After that, the next First Friday won't be until February.

"We skip January because it frequently falls on a holiday and we've just wrapped up a very busy

season," stated Zwiebel. "Colder weather usually means fewer outdoor vendors and food trucks. But the shops offer great promotions and host more activities."

Zwiebel stated they are still looking for community partners for the 2020

First Friday.

"Whether they want to reserve a booth, or host a large-scale activity like a bounce house, or become a marketing sponsor, we are accepting partners now," she stated.

Zwiebel may be reached by phone at 260-563-0975.

Two student matinee performances scheduled

'Miss Nelson Has a Field Day' set for Nov. 19

STAFF REPORT

The Honeywell Foundation's Educational Outreach Program is presenting two Student Matinee performances of "Miss Nelson Has a Field Day" at 10 a.m.

and noon Tuesday, Nov. 19, at Honeywell Center's Ford Theater, according to a press release.

"Return to Horace B. Smedley School where the 'Smedley Tornadoes' have never won a football game, or even scored a single point," stated the release. "Kind-hearted Miss Nelson comes to the rescue when she enlists the help of her

alter ego, the ill-tempered Miss Viola Swamp, to coach the team and whip them into shape. Considered by all to be 'the meanest substitute teacher in the whole world,' Coach Swamp applies her trademark discipline to the players' training, demanding tough exercises and no back talk. In the end, the team changes their attitude, pulls together, sharpens

their skills, and manages to win the biggest game of the year."

Tickets to see Mill Nelson Has a Field Day are \$10 for the public, \$6 per student for schools, with one free adult ticket for each 10 students.

For more information, please contact the Honeywell Center Box Office at 260-563-1102.

ISP offers tips to avoid deer on the roadway

Mating season lasts through December

STAFF REPORT

Its that time of year again for drivers to be aware of deer darting into and crossing the roadways. The Indiana State Police (ISP) would like to pass along a few safety tips to help you avoid a possible collision with a deer this year, according to a press release.

Be cautious while driving during dusk or dawn hours

Deer are most active at dawn and dusk, but can appear at any time, especially during the mating season, which is in full swing from October through December.

"Please remember though that deer can appear at any time. Ensure that you and your passengers are wearing seat belts at all times, in case you need to make a sudden stop," stated the release.

Pay attention to deer crossing signs

Be alert and observe your surroundings for any signs of deer while on the road. Deer are abundant in forested areas, so its important to drive cautiously even if you're no longer in a deer-crossing zone.

Stay alert if you spot a deer

Deer tend to travel in packs so if you see one deer, slow down and proceed with caution, be prepared for more to follow. If you see a deer, slow down, tap your brakes to warn others, or flash your lights and sound your horn to warn other motorists. It will allow everyone to slow down.

Take precautions when driving at night

If there is no oncoming traffic, turn on your bright lights: You'll not only be able to see clearer, but you'll have a greater chance of spotting a deer from a distance and allow you to react accordingly.

Don't swerve to avoid hitting a deer

Do not swerve to avoid a deer collision. By swerving you put yourself at risk for a worse collision with another motorist or running off the roadway. Brake firmly and stay in your lane.

Report the deer-vehicle collision

If you happen to get involved in an accident, contact local authorities to report it so you can get an accident report for your insurance company.

"Remember deer are unpredictable and could dart into traffic at any time, so be alert at all times," stated the release.

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PULSE

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planning a Holiday Bazaar from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 9 at 173 Hale Drive. Decorations, crafts, raffle, noodles, gift items, baked items and candy will be available.

Woman's Clubhouse plans November luncheon

The Woman's Clubhouse will host the monthly luncheon at noon Tuesday, Nov. 12. They will welcome Rick Elliott and Bob Brown for an afternoon of show tunes and a little pre-Holiday sing-a-long. Make your reservations with Carol McDonald, 260-563-2331 or Mary Delauter, 260-563-6613 by Saturday, Nov. 9.

North Manchester native speaks on modeling career

The North Manchester Historical Society (NMHS) will welcome home Murph Damron at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 11 in the Assembly Room at Timbercrest Retirement Center, 2201 East St. It is open to the public at no cost and will be enjoyable for audiences of all ages.

City, county offices closed for Veteran's Day

Wabash city and county offices will be closed for Veteran's Day, Monday, Nov. 11. The Wabash County Commissioners meeting has been moved to 9 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 12. The Wabash City Council meeting has been moved to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 12.

Contemporary music for solo piano performance at Manchester

The Manchester University Department of Music presents a solo piano recital by guest artist Martin Jones at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 12 in Wine Recital Hall. It is free and open to the public.

Honeywell House presents 'An American in China'

The Honeywell House welcomes Elizabeth Myers Macinata to present "An American in China During World War II," at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 12 at 720 N. Wabash St. This event is free and open to the public. Reservations are encouraged, as seating is limited. Please visit www.HoneywellHouse.org or call the Box Office at 260-563-1102 for more information.

Tiptecanoe Audubon Society to present endangered birds program

The Tiptecanoe Audubon Society will present a program by Matt Williams, author of the recent book, "Endangered and Disappearing Birds of the Midwest," at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 12 at Manchester University. The program will be given in the Jo Young Switzer Center (Student Union), Speicher Room (second floor). Dinner will be available at 6 p.m. for \$15. For further information or to make a dinner reservation, call Dave Hicks at 260-982-2471 or email djhicks@manchester.edu.

Program at Manchester offers skills to deal with conflict

The hour-long program is 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 12 at the upper level of the Jo Young Switzer Center on the North Manchester campus. It is free and open to the public.

Frances Slocum Chapter of the DAR to meet

Wabash County Frances Slocum Chapter, INDR will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 12, at the Grandstaff Hentgen Activity Room, 1241 Manchester Ave. The program will be given by retired U.S. National Guard Army veteran, Helen Hile. Prospective members and guests are

always welcome to attend. DAR membership is open to any woman 18 years of age, who can prove lineal descent from a patriot of the American Revolution. Those having questions about their family history lineage information may visit www.dar.org or call Linda Thompson at 260-563-4661 or Barbara Amiss at 260-982-4376.

Kokomo day trip planned for next month

The North Manchester Historical Society and Shepherd's Center are sponsoring a day trip to Kokomo Opalescent Glass, Celebrations Event Center and Seiberling Mansion on Thursday, Dec. 12. The cost of the day trip is \$72, and includes luxury coach, both tours, lunch, and any tips and taxes. Please RSVP by Nov. 15. For detailed information contact Bernie Ferringier, tour coordinator, by mail at 314 Sunset Drive, North Manchester, IN 46962; by email at bernievicki@gmail.com; or by phone at 260-982-8734.

Downtown Night to Remember planned

The following schedule of events had been released for Friday, Nov. 15: 4 to 9 p.m., Holiday Open Houses and Map Stamping; 6:30 to 7 p.m., The Lighting of the Courthouse including Santa's arrival; and 7:15 to 9 p.m., Visit with Santa at Wabash City Hall.

Free admission at the Dr. James Ford Historic Home

Activity is gearing up once again at the Dr. James Ford Historic Home in anticipation of Wabash's annual Downtown Night to Remember, taking place from 4 to 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 15 and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 16. After enjoying the downtown holiday décor, enjoy holiday hoopla and free admission at the Home located at 177 W. Hill Street in Wabash. For more event information on the Dr. James Ford Historic Home, call 260-563-1102 or visit www.drfordhome.org/programs-and-events.

4-H Junior Leaders fish and tenderloin fry planned

An all-you-can-eat fish and tenderloin fry has been planned from 3 to 7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 16 hosted at the Lagro Community Building, 230 Buchanan St., Lagro. Tickets are available in advance at a discounted rate at the Wabash County Courthouse, Purdue Extension Office, 1 W. Hill St. The cost for adults is \$9, children ages 6 to 11 are \$5 and children 5 and under eat free. Tickets may also be purchased at the door the night of the fish and tenderloin fry at the Lagro Community Building at the regular price of adults for \$10, children ages 6 to 11 for \$6, and children 5 and under eat free.

MU invites students, parents to Spartan Day

The school is hosting Spartan Day on Saturday, Nov. 16 at its campus in North Manchester. It is from 8:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and includes a complimentary lunch.

National Take-A-Hike Day: Swift Grand Tour planned

From noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 17, ACRES Land Trust volunteers will keep the hiking pace swift. Fuel up your vehicle and join in this fast-walking 6-mile grand tour

with built-in breaks as you are caravanning from preserve to preserve. Restrooms are available at Asherwood. The trip concludes with sunset views of the Seven Pillars of the Mississinewa Landmark. Other preserve visits include Kokiwanee, Hathaway Preserve at Ross Run, Asherwood and Pehkokia Woods. Space is limited. For starting location and other information, RSVP to outreach@acreslandtrust.org or 260-637-2273 by Wednesday, Nov. 13.

'China and Wabash: Working Together Today' program planned

The Honeywell House welcomes husband and wife Dave and Sandy Haist as they present "China and Wabash: Working Together Today," scheduled for 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 19 at 720 N. Wabash St. This event is free and open to the public. Reservations are encouraged, as seating is limited. Visit www.HoneywellHouse.org or call the Box Office at 260-563-1102.

Common Ground Prayer Ministries plans Prayer Watch

From 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 20, Common Ground Prayer Ministries is planning a Prayer Watch Wednesday for Wabash Ministries. We are asking people to come in and pray for half-hour time slots in the prayer room. Focus this month is Friends In Service Here (FISH). You can contact anyone at the prayer room or Janet Shoue with FISH to let them know when you could come. At 10 a.m. every Tuesday, this is a Community Prayer, which is open to all. Contact any of our prayer captains with questions including Debbie Sweet at 260-571-6072, Shirley Neele at 260-591-0047 or Angie Penix at 260-571-9809.

Banner contest awards and reception planned

The 16th Annual Wabash County Winter Banner Competition awards ceremony will take place at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 20 at the Honeywell Center's Ford Theater. A reception in the main lobby will follow.

'Johnny Got His Gun' brings horror of war to Manchester

Manchester University will show the film at 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 21 in Cordier Auditorium, followed by a panel discussion. Winter Banner Competition artwork displayed The students' artwork will hang in the Clark Gallery at the Honeywell Center from Saturday, Nov. 9 through Sunday, Dec. 1.

Woman's Clubhouse plans evening Christmas dinner

Don't forget the Christmas evening dinner Thursday, Dec. 5. It is the annual holiday fundraiser with a very special dinner and entertainment. The house will be decorated in an angel theme this year. Reservations will be taken at the November luncheon. Contact Carol McDonald by phone at 260-563-2331 or Mary Delauter at 260-563-6613 for more information.

Editor's note: If you have an upcoming event to submit, please send it by email to news@wabashplaindealer.com no later than five days before the event itself. Please use complete sentences, Associated Press style and Microsoft Word or PDF file formats.

5-Day Weather Summary

 Thursday Rain & Snow Possible 37 / 21	 Friday Partly Cloudy 34 / 23	 Saturday Partly Cloudy 41 / 34	 Sunday Mostly Cloudy 45 / 25	 Monday Few Snow Showers 30 / 16
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Sun and Moon

Today's sunset 5:37 p.m.
Tomorrow's sunrise 7:26 a.m.

 Full 11/12	 Last 11/19	 New 11/26	 First 12/4
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Detailed Local Outlook

Today we will see mostly cloudy skies with a 45% chance of rain and snow, high of 37°, humidity of 53%. North wind 11 to 14 mph. Snow accumulation of less than one inch possible. Expect clear skies tonight, overnight low of 21°. Northwest wind 8 to 11 mph. The wind chill for tonight could reach 12°.

Junior executive tired of loose-lipped colleagues

DEAR HARRIETTE: I realize that even when I say things to co-workers in confidence, they often tell other people. I suppose I should remember that from elementary school, but I am an adult, and in my professional life, I expect people to follow protocol.

If something is considered confidential and is clearly identified as such, it should be kept confidential. My company goes so far as to outline who gets to know things that are listed as confidential.

Harriette Cole
Sense & Sensitivity



I don't want to rat out my colleagues who have loose lips, but I do believe that what they are doing is reckless and totally against company rules. How should I handle this? I am a junior executive and do not want to risk my position in the company. – Shut Your Mouth

DEAR SHUT YOUR MOUTH: Tread carefully so that you can fully assess the situation. Who do you believe is breaking confidentiality at work? How do you know? Have you directly witnessed a breach? Taking this seriously includes being completely clear that you are an eyewitness to something inappropriate.

Next, get a sense of who is releasing the information. If the perpetrators are company favorites, you may be stepping into political waters when and if you say anything. Do you have any allies at work? As you evaluate everything, figure out if you feel alone or if you will have support, if needed.

Finally, if you feel that the information being shared inappropriately will negatively impact your company, you should speak up. You may want to speak to your boss, if you feel aligned with him or her. Or you can go to human resources. If the content seems particularly volatile, you may want to talk to a lawyer first to figure out how to protect yourself, if you may be

READERS' CHOICE REPORTS

TUESDAY'S LOTTERIES

Cash 5
07-12-15-18-27
Jackpot: \$115,000
Cash4Life
10-26-43-47-56, Cash Ball: 3
Daily Three-Midday
4-3-4, SB: 6
Daily Three-Evening
9-6-2, SB: 3
Daily Four-Midday
3-8-8-8, SB: 6
Daily Four-Evening
7-3-0-8, SB: 3
Mega Millions
02-09-24-49-54, Mega Ball: 19, Megaplier: 3
Jackpot: \$127 million
Powerball
Jackpot: \$40 million

WEDNESDAY'S METALS

Aluminum0.82
Copper2.70
Lead0.99
Zinc1.18
Gold1,491.99
Silver17.61
Platinum924.94

AREA GRAIN

Estimated grain prices
Wednesday at Indianapolis-area elevators: Corn: \$4.07.
Soybeans: \$8.92.

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Linda Kelsay
Publisher
lkelsay@wabashplaindealer.com

Rob Burgess
Editor
rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com

Christi Kincade
Advertising Director
ckincade@wabashplaindealer.com

Talk to us

Main number 260-563-2131
Main fax 260-563-0816
Website www.wabashplaindealer.com

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Showtimes for Friday, November 1- Thursday, November 7

All showtimes have Closed Captioning available.


Arctic Dogs (PG) Fri: 7:10, 9:25 Sat: 1:15, 4:25, 7:10, 9:25 Sun: 1:15, 4:25, 7:10 Mon- Thurs: 7:10	Maleficent: Mistress of Evil in 2D (PG) Fri: 6:30, 9:15 Sat: 12:55, 3:45, 6:30, 9:15 Sun: 12:55, 3:45, 6:30 Mon- Thurs: 6:30	The Addams Family in 2D (PG) Fri: 6:50, 9:35 Sat: 1:45, 4:15, 6:50, 9:35 Sun: 1:45, 4:15, 6:50 Mon- Thurs: 6:50
Terminator: Dark Fate (R) Fri: 6:40, 9:45 Sat: 1:05, 3:55, 6:40, 9:45 Sun: 1:05, 3:55, 6:40 Mon- Thurs: 6:40	Zombieland: Double Tap (R) Fri: 7:00, 9:55 Sat: 1:35, 4:05, 7:00, 9:55 Sun: 1:35, 4:05, 7:00 Mon- Thurs: 7:00	

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Memorial Lawns Cemetery, Wabash • 260-563-0421
www.grandstaff-hentgen.com

Dorothy P. Whitmore
May 30, 1917 - Nov. 4, 2019

Dorothy P. Whitmore, 102, passed away at 6:51 p.m. on Nov. 4, 2019 at Timbercrest Healthcare Center, North Manchester. Dorothy was born May 30, 1917 in Chicago, Illinois to Earl & Bessie (Netzley) Fry. She married Rev. Albert L. Whitmore on Dec. 25, 1936.

Calling and funeral services will be at a later date. Memorials: Heifer International, 1 World Ave, Little Rock, Arkansas. Arrangements entrusted to McKee Mortuary, North Manchester, Indiana. Condolences may be emailed to mckee-mortuary.com

California discloses Facebook probe, sues for documents

BY TALI ARBEL
AP Technology Writer

California’s attorney general disclosed an ongoing probe into Facebook’s privacy practices Wednesday, as it sued the company over its repeated refusal to turn over documents and answer questions.

California Attorney General Xavier Becerra said his probe has been going on for more than a year. He said he was disclosing it now because his office was making a public court filing to force the company to comply with subpoenas and requests for information.

“Facebook is not just continuing to drag its feet in response to the Attorney General’s investigation, it is failing to comply,” the lawsuit said.

The lawsuit was filed in state Superior Court in San Francisco.

The California probe, one of many legal and regulatory inquiries into Facebook, began as a response to the Cambridge Analytica scandal and grew into an investigation into whether Facebook misrepresented its privacy practices, deceived users and broke California law.

Cambridge Analytica, a data mining firm, gathered details on as many as 87 million Facebook users without their permission. The Federal Trade Commission fined Facebook \$5 billion this summer for privacy violations in an investigation that also grew out of that scandal. California officials say questions have been raised about what Facebook knew and why it didn’t prevent third parties such as Cambridge Analytica from misusing user data.

The court filing said Facebook hasn’t given answers on 19 of the attorney general’s questions and hasn’t given any new documents in response to six document requests. The filing also said

Facebook has refused to search the emails of top executives Mark Zuckerberg and Sheryl Sandberg, as the state requested.

Becerra’s office said it requested additional information after Facebook took a year to respond to an initial subpoena.

Investigators sought communications among executives on developers’ access to user data, the relationship between ad spending and access to data and the introduction of new privacy features and privacy-related news stories. Officials also sought information on the effects of privacy settings on third-party access to data and Facebook’s enforcement of policies.

Facebook, which has its headquarters in Menlo Park, California, didn’t respond to requests for comment.

California hadn’t joined a separate probe involving attorneys general from New York and other states. The New York probe is looking into Facebook’s dominance and any resulting anticompetitive conduct. California is also a holdout in a separate probe into Google’s market dominance.

The District of Columbia and Massachusetts have also gone after Facebook on privacy. The Massachusetts attorney general’s office is set to argue in a state court Thursday why Facebook should be compelled to stop resisting and turn over documents for its investigation.

Facebook’s various legal troubles have yet to make a significant financial dent on the company. Even the FTC’s \$5 billion fine, the largest ever for a tech company, came to just under one-tenth of Facebook’s revenue last year. The penalty was criticized by consumer advocates and a number of public officials as being too lenient.

Attorney general appealing release of convicted murderer

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Indiana’s attorney general will appeal a decision by a federal judge to release from prison a man convicted in the 2000 killing an Indiana University student, his office announced Wednesday.

U.S. District Court Judge James Sweeney in Indianapolis ruled in September that John Myers II’s legal representation during trial for the murder of Jill Behrman was so ineffective his Sixth Amendment rights were violated.

Indiana Attorney General Curtis Hill’s office is challenging the court order that not only vacated Myers’ conviction, but also mandated that Myers be released from custody within 120

days of the Sept. 30 judgment, unless the state elects to retry him.

“Convicted murderers should stay in prison,” Hill said of Myers in a statement. “While we respect the federal judge’s order, we believe that it is wrong as a matter of law and should not be the final word in this important case.”

Myers, 43, was convicted in 2006 in the killing of 19-year-old Jill Behrman and sentenced to 65 years. Myers turned to the federal court to appeal his conviction after several unsuccessful attempts to challenge in state court. He argued his lawyers made several mistakes that prejudiced the jury against him.

Migrants live in fear at Mexico-U.S. border as violence flares

BY ELLIOT SPAGAT
Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — A Salvadoran woman seeking asylum in the United States spends her days holed up in her cousin’s cramped slum house just across the border in Mexico — too scared to leave after receiving a savage beating from two men three weeks ago while she was strolling home from a convenience store.

The assault came after she spent four months in captivity in Mexico, kidnapped into prostitution during her journey toward the U.S.

The woman, 31, is among 55,000 migrants who have been returned to Mexico by the Trump administration to wait for their cases to wind through backlogged immigration courts. Her situation offers a glimpse into some of the program’s problems.

Critics have said the administration’s policy denies asylum seekers like the Salvadoran woman fair and humane treatment, forcing them to wait in a country plagued by drug-fueled violence — illustrated this week by the slaughter near the U.S. border of six children and three women . All were U.S. citizens living in Mexico.

The Trump administration insists that the program is a safe alternative in collaboration with the government of Mexico, even as the president vows to wage war on drug cartels that are a dominant presence in the dangerous border cities where migrants are forced to wait.

The Department of Homeland Security added in a report last week that the program is “an indispensable tool in addressing the ongoing crisis at the southern border and restoring integrity to the immigration system.”

The woman said in an interview that she fled Santa Ana, El Salvador, on Jan. 31 after days on the run from a police officer who demanded sexual acts.

She never said goodbye to her five children — ages 5 to 12 — fearing the officer would discover where they lived. The Associated Press granted her anonymity because she fears for her safety if her identity is revealed.

She said she was kidnapped after leaving a Mexican government office on its southern border with Guatemala after inquiring about getting asylum in Mexico.

She and others were taken in a minivan to Ciudad Juarez, on Mexico’s border with Texas. Captors in a large room argued over who would take possession of the men, women and children gathered there.

One wanted to extort money from Lizeth’s family. A second wanted to force her into prostitution and she ended up with him before her escape this summer to the home of a stranger who paid for her bus ticket to her cousin who lives across the border from San Diego.

She said she shared her story with U.S. authorities after she walked across

the border illegally alone on Sept. 18 where the wall ends in Tijuana, Mexico, and waited for an agent to arrest her. They rejected her pleas that it was too dangerous for her to return to Mexico to wait for a date in U.S. immigration court for a judge to hear her case.

Then, on Oct. 14., she said she was punched and whipped with a belt by assailants near her cousin’s home in a hillside neighborhood of dirt and concrete roads and empty, half-built homes occupied by drug addicts and squatters.

She still had bruises as her case was heard last week in San Diego, when immigration Judge Lee O’Connor made no secret of his disdain for the policy of keeping asylum seekers waiting in Mexico.

The scene in the courtroom was chaotic, with the infant child of a Honduran woman whimpering and then bellowing as O’Connor entered.

“Silence in the courtroom!” he barked. A guard escorted the child and his mother to the hallway.

The judge questioned the two attorneys representing asylum seekers about how long it took them to visit clients in Mexico, noting infamously long waits to cross the border.

“Hours,” the judge marveled.

But the judge ruled the Salvadoran woman and the Honduran family were ineligible for the program because, in his view, the law

governing asylum seekers only allows it for people who present themselves at official border crossings — not for immigrants like her who entered illegally.

Customs and Border Protection officials then sent the woman back to Mexico with a notice telling her she had another court date set for Dec. 16, even though her case had been terminated.

The woman’s lawyer, Siobhan Waldron, accused Customs and Border Protection of making up the Dec. 16 court date to get the woman out of the U.S. and back to Mexico. Waldron said she does not know what will come next for her client.

Customs and Border Protection did not provide answers to emailed questions about the woman’s case. But Kathryn Mattingly, a spokeswoman for the Justice Department’s Executive Office for Immigration Review, confirmed Wednesday that the Salvadoran woman no future court dates set.

For now, the Salvadoran woman sleeps on a foam mattress in a sparsely furnished one-bedroom home of concrete slabs and plywood walls — still scared to leave.

She claimed that U.S. authorities told her while she was in custody that efforts to remain in the U.S. were futile.

“There’s nothing you can do,” she said she was told by one official. “This is not your country.”

Judge strikes down new Trump rule on religious objections

BY LARRY NEUMEISTER
Associated Press

NEW YORK — A federal judge on Wednesday struck down a new Trump administration rule that could open the way for more health care workers to refuse to participate in abortions or other procedures on moral or religious grounds.

U.S. District Judge Paul A. Engelmayer said the U.S. Health and Human Services Department overstepped its authority and went beyond existing law in issuing the rule. He also said that the measure could be costly, burdensome and damaging to emergency care and that the whole rationale for the rule was based on a lie.

He said the department’s claim that there was a significant increase in complaints about workers being forced to violate their conscience

was “flatly untrue.” The HHS rule, he said, is a classic “solution in search of a problem.”

An HHS spokeswoman had no comment.

Nineteen states, the District of Columbia, three local governments, health organizations and others had sued to block the rule from taking effect Nov. 22, arguing that it would be discriminatory and would interfere with people’s access to health care.

“Today, the Trump administration has been blocked from providing legal cover for discrimination,” said Alexis McGill Johnson, acting president of Planned Parenthood. “As the federal district court made clear, the administration acted outside its authority and made false claims to try to justify this rule.”

Rosie Phillips Davis, president of the American Psychological Association, said the HHS rule “could have jeopardized the health of some of our most vulnerable populations, including women, LGBT people and people with HIV or AIDS.”

But Sen. Ben Sasse, a Nebraska Republican, called the ruling “absurd mush” and urged the Trump administration to appeal.

Health care institutions have long relied on federal Conscience Provisions first created in 1973 and amended since then that protected health care professionals from carrying out services that conflict with their religious or moral beliefs.

The new HHS rule broadens the list of health care personnel who can refuse to participate, expanding it to those who counsel, refer,

train or make arrangements for a medical procedure.

It also restricts the ability of employers to inquire about employees’ objections and broadens the definition of health care entities to include pharmacists and medical laboratories.

Thus, the judge warned, a hospital or clinic receptionist who schedules appointments, an elevator operator or an ambulance driver could refuse on moral or religious grounds to do their jobs.

He said the rule could force some health care employers to double or triple staff, particularly during emergencies.

“These limits have clear potential to inhibit the employer’s ability to organize workplace arrangements to avoid inefficiencies and dislocations,” Engelmayer said.

MAYOR

Continued from A1

elections, ending the 2019 cycle with 70 Republican mayors throughout Indiana, according to Jake Oakman, director of strategic communications.

“This involved flipping 19 mayoral offices, including those in traditional Democrat strongholds Kokomo, Muncie, Logansport and Michigan City,” stated Oakman.

Republicans now hold 23 more mayoral offices than Democrats, another record.

“Not content to compete in just one region, the Indiana Republican Party invested time, talent and significant resources in races throughout the state. This coordination and teamwork led to an unprecedented flip,” stated Oakman.

In Kokomo, where Republicans had not won the mayor’s race in over a decade, Republican Tyler Moore was victorious. In Muncie, Republican Dan Ridenour brought the mayor’s office back in the Republican column. Voters elected Republican Duane Parry as mayor of Michigan City. Republican Evansville Mayor Lloyd Winnecke secured a third term.

The trend carried through-

out the state. Terre Haute, Lawrence, Jeffersonville, Logansport, Winchester, Bluffton, Hartford City and Greensburg all elected Republican mayors.

“What role do national politics play in somebody deciding to run for a local office? It’s like the Grand Canyon between local issues and national issues, but maybe some of that national rhetoric plays a role in people running for office. I’m not sure,” said Long.

Long said the day after the election all the party differences disappeared.

“I served for four years with other mayors, and there’s a lot of them I

couldn’t tell you if they were Democrat or Republican because we all just worked together and we worked to make our communities and this region a better region to live, work and play. None of us talk Democrat or Republican when we’re at meetings and stuff. I think the only time it comes into play is before an election and during the election.

“Nobody talks about it. We’ll talk about it again in four years because that’s when the next election is, but between now and then, we won’t talk about it amongst ourselves,” said Long.

speak up

How to contact your legislators:

U.S. Sen. Todd Young, R-Ind.

B33 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510 1-202-224-5623 http://coats.senate.gov/contact

U.S. Sen. Mike Braun, R-Ind.

B85 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510 202-224-4814 http://braun.senate.gov/

U.S. Rep. Jackie Walorski R-District 2

419 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515 202-225-3915

State Sen. Andy Zay, R-District 17

Indiana Senate 200 W. Washington St. Indianapolis, IN 46204 1-800-382-9467 Senator.Zay@iga.in.gov

State Rep. David Wolkins, R-District 18

Indiana House 200 W. Washington St. Indianapolis, IN 46204 1-800-382-9841 h18@in.gov

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Please sign your letter. Your name will be used with the letter that is published in the Plain Dealer. Your letter will be returned if it is your desire to remain anonymous.

Since we may want to write or call you to verify the letter, we ask that you include your address and telephone number. All our letters to the editor are published in the interest of fair play, so we trust our letter writers will refrain from personal attacks on other persons or groups.

A letter should be less than two pages long, preferably of double-spaced typing.

In order to give everyone an opportunity to participate in this exchange of ideas, please try to limit your letters to one per month per household.

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inspiration corner

Daily scripture

37 All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.

John 6:37

Who blew the whistle on Trump? It doesn't matter

President Trump can't help himself. Whenever he's confronted with his own misbehavior, he lashes out aggressively at those who have had the temerity to question him. Witness, for example, Special Counsel Robert S. Mueller III's investigation, which documented disturbingly real efforts by Russia to alter the course of a U.S. presidential election – in Trump's telling, the meddling was nothing but a hoax and the investigation a witchhunt perpetrated on the country by his enemies, who need to be punished for it.

So it is with the House impeachment inquiry, which House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-San Francisco) launched after lawmakers learned that Trump may have pressured Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in July to investigate former Vice President Joe Biden. Trump has gone on the offensive, calling for the whistleblower who brought this episode to Congress' attention to be outed rather than addressing the implications of leaning on a vulnerable ally to assist in his reelection campaign.

"I think that the whistleblower

gave a lot of false information. And you have to see who the whistleblower is," Trump told reporters Monday, reiterating a point he'd made earlier in the day on Twitter. His supporters have joined the push to unmask the whistleblower, who Trump has called "an Obama guy," with some GOP congressmen and right-leaning media going so far as to float the name of a person they suspect of being the whistleblower. These efforts have drawn complaints from the whistleblower's lawyers, who say their client's life is being put in danger. Federal law protects whistleblowers from reprisals at work, but it doesn't guarantee them anonymity.

But Trump is fighting the wrong battle. The core accusations in the whistleblower's complaint have been confirmed by the reconstructed transcript of Trump's call with Zelensky and by the testimony of numerous witnesses before the House. The House started releasing transcripts of those depositions Monday, so more details will be available with each passing day. As Trump himself noted when the

complaint was released, the whistleblower was operating mainly on hearsay. The case against the president will rise or fall on the strength of the testimony being gathered from people with direct knowledge of what Trump said and did, regardless of the motives of the whistleblower who started the ball rolling.

Trump has made it clear since he assumed office that he does not consider any form of oversight to be valid; it's all a form of political harassment perpetrated by Democrats and Republican "Never Trumpers." His attacks on the whistleblower are from that same playbook. But as the evidence amasses about the July 25 call and the supporting efforts by Trump's lawyer Rudy Giuliani to pressure Ukraine into opening a politically motivated investigation, the original whistleblower has become a non-factor in the inquiry. The only thing Trump accomplishes by threatening to out the whistleblower is to intimidate others into silence. Perhaps that's the goal.

This editorial was first published in The Los Angeles Times.



Trump, the phone call and consciousness of guilt

The July 25 call between President Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky is the central piece of evidence in the Democratic drive to remove the president from office. "That call was a smoking gun," Speaker Nancy Pelosi said after House Democrats voted to formalize their impeachment inquiry.

Trump has repeatedly said the call was "perfect," or, as he described it recently, "perfecto." His defenders, or most of them, have declined to adopt that characterization. But importantly, the president, and others as well, have also pointed to the circumstances of the Trump-Zelensky conversation as evidence that Trump had no intent to commit any sort of offense, and certainly not one that the House would later deem impeachable.

"It's common sense," the president said recently in an expansive Oval Office conversation after the House vote. "I've got 20 to 25 people on the phone call. I've got stenographers and all of these people on the telephone. Am I going to make a statement that's illegal or bad? I'm an intelligent person. Who would do a thing like that?"

To that end, Trump has urged everyone to "read the transcript" of the call. That is a reference to the memorandum, which reads like a rough transcript, prepared by the National Security Council. On the morning of the House vote, Trump tweeted, simply, "READ THE TRANSCRIPT!" In his Oval Office conversation, he said his campaign has had T-shirts made with the same message.

Then, Trump said: "At some point, I'm going to sit down, perhaps as a fireside chat on live television, and I will read the transcript of the call, because people have to hear it. When you read it, it's a straight call."

And, of course, the only reason everyone knows what is in the

rough transcript is that, once it became the center of controversy, Trump released it to the public. He did so over the objections of some officials who argued disclosure would be an unprecedented breach of the confidentiality of the president's communications with other heads of state.

In short, Trump appears to be making no effort to conceal what he said to Zelensky, be it about his belief that other countries should bear more of the burden of foreign aid or what he wanted Ukraine to investigate about the 2016 election and about former Vice President Joe Biden and son Hunter Biden.

So what to make of a situation in which one side says the call is a smoking gun, while the other screams, "READ THE TRANSCRIPT"?

"Look at the circumstantial evidence surrounding this," former independent counsel Kenneth Starr said in a recent interview. "[Did Trump say] 'Bring him in, bring him in here, and I want to talk to him privately'?"

No. Instead, Starr explained, Trump chose a phone call, rather than a one-on-one meeting, to make his points with Zelensky. Remember when the president was accused of being secretive in a one-on-one conversation with Vladimir Putin with no one other than translators within earshot? This wasn't that.

"There were 17 people on the phone, including the secretary of State," Starr continued. "The president was so, shall I say, open and transparent about it that that goes to his intent. There's no corrupt bargain, or an attempt to achieve a corrupt bargain, as I see it."

No, no, no, say Democrats. Trump's behavior, according to presidential candidate Sen. Kamala Harris, showed "clear evidence of consciousness of guilt." The call is not a "straight call," as the president said. It's a confession of a crime.

Part of the problem with that position is that Democrats have had a difficult time coming up with a law that Trump violated in the

Zelensky call. Some have said it was extortion. Some have said it was a campaign finance violation. Some recent speculation has focused on an obscure statute called the Hobbs Act. But nobody has made a slam-dunk case that Trump broke the law.

Still, Democrats say, the White House move to restrict access to the rough transcript shows an awareness that something was amiss. "People involved in the preparation of this transcript had, in effect, a consciousness of guilt," CNN's Jeffrey Toobin said recently. The problem with that argument, in the context of impeachment, is that it refers to White House staff, not to the president himself.

Some of Trump's most determined adversaries say his "read the transcript" mantra is the work of a sociopath, of someone who is incapable of knowing right from wrong, or perhaps it is an in-your-face defense strategy that comes naturally to a man who almost never admits a mistake.

But the simplest explanation is that Trump really doesn't believe he did anything wrong.

"Everybody knows I did absolutely nothing wrong," the president said in the Oval Office before ticking down impeachments past. "Bill Clinton did things wrong. Richard Nixon did things wrong ... I did nothing wrong, and for [Democrats] to do this is a disgrace."

In recent days, both sides in the impeachment debate appear to be hardening their positions. House Democrats are dead-set on impeaching Trump, and Republicans seem more and more determined to resist. In the Senate, Republicans appear to be moving toward arguing not that the Trump-Zelensky call was "perfecto," but that it was inappropriate and yet still does not rise to the level of an impeachable offense.

The president has a counter to that argument, too, which he put in a recent tweet. His advice: Read the transcript.

Byron York is chief political correspondent for The Washington Examiner.

Why don't Democrats drop impeachment and just censure Trump?

On Jan. 20, 2017, The Washington Post reported that "The effort to impeach President Donald John Trump is already underway." Even before Trump took the oath of office that day, Democratic groups were looking for a pretext to remove him from office.

They thought they would get one from special counsel Robert Mueller. Instead, Mueller found that Trump did not conspire with Russia to steal the 2016 election. But rather than capitalize on that moment of vindication, Trump decided to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory and give Democrats the pretext they had been looking for – by asking Ukraine to investigate Hunter Biden.

Democrats can't believe their luck. Unlike Russia, this time Trump actually did something wrong. The president's phone call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky was not "perfect," as Trump repeatedly claims. A USA Today-Suffolk University poll finds that only 30 percent of Americans believe there was nothing wrong with the call. But the same poll finds that just 38 percent think it was an impeachable offense, while 21 percent say it was wrong but not impeachable.

That means most Americans agree with Democrats that Trump did something wrong, but only a minority believe his misconduct rises to the level of high crimes and misdemeanors. Worse still for Democrats, according to an Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research poll, 53 percent of Americans believe that their impeachment inquiry is politically motivated. And in six key swing states likely to decide the 2020 election, voters oppose removing Trump from office by a margin of 53 percent to 43 percent, according to a New York Times-Siena College survey.

So, unless some bombshell evidence emerges to turn public opinion decisively in favor of impeachment, Trump will not be removed from office. Impeachment would be a purely symbolic act.

So why not drop impeachment and censure him instead?

There is precedent for doing so. In 1834, the Senate voted to censure President Andrew Jackson (whose portrait Trump has proudly hung in the Oval Office) over his stonewalling of a congressional investigation into Jackson's decision to shut down the Second Bank of the United States. If Congress voted to censure Trump, it would make him only the second president in history to have been so explicitly reprimanded.

The House could easily pass such a censure resolution and might even do so with a bipartisan majority. Right now, House Republicans feel no pressure to vote for impeachment, and Senate Republicans feel no pressure to convict, because most Americans agree with them that Trump's conduct is not impeachable. They know that, if anything, impeachment poses a greater political danger to Democrats, putting at risk 31 House seats held by freshman Democrats in districts Trump carried in 2016.

But by censuring instead of impeaching the president, Democrats could easily turn the political calculus against the GOP. The Post reports that a growing number of Republicans are ready to acknowledge that the president did use military aid as leverage to force Ukraine to investigate the Biden family but that "the president's action was not illegal and does not rise to the level of an impeachable offense." To oppose a censure resolution, Republicans would have to argue not just that the president's misconduct does not rise to the level of an impeachable offense, but that there was no misconduct at all. Clearly there was, and Americans know it. Censure would put public opinion squarely on the Democrats' side and put Republicans in a political bind.

A bipartisan censure vote would ultimately be more damaging to Trump than impeachment along party lines. The impeachment inquiry is energizing Trump voters, who believe Democrats are trying to invalidate their votes by removing Trump from office. Censure would take away that argument. It would be dispiriting to Trump's base, especially if some Republicans joined Democrats in voting to rebuke the president. Trump would be furious at a bipartisan vote of censure.

The Senate would not be required to take up a censure resolution passed by the House, but so what? Jackson's censure was passed by only one house of Congress. If the House censured the president, and the Senate failed to even vote on the resolution, it would look very bad for Republicans.

Will Democrats do it? Probably not. Their ravenous base wants to brook no compromise. But because impeachment will be nothing more than an act of censure anyway, why not actually censure Trump and pressure some Republicans to vote against their president? Then leave the decision of whether to remove Trump from office where it belongs – in the hands of the American people next November.

Follow Marc A. Thiessen on Twitter, @marcthiessen.

Marc A. Thiessen





A holiday-worthy (and do-ahead) trifle

BY LYNDA BALSLEV

This festive trifle will carry you through the holidays – it’s a great do-ahead dessert with show-stopping results. Buttermilk pound cake is blanketed with layers of cranberry compote, orange-infused mascarpone cream and candied walnuts. Each bite is light and airy with the pop of sweet-tart cranberries and the crunch of cinnamon-dusted nuts, so be sure to get a little bit of everything in every spoonful.

Don’t let the length of this recipe deter you. It’s composed of several separate short recipes for each component that can (and should) be prepared well in advance of assembling the trifle, and the trifle can also be assembled in advance of serving. This will leave you with plenty of time to wrestle with that turkey.

- CRANBERRY ORANGE TRIFLE WITH CANDIED WALNUTS**
Assembly Time: 20 minutes
Yield: Makes one large trifle, serving 8 to 10; or 8 individual trifles
1 buttermilk pound cake loaf (recipe follows or store-bought)
Cranberry Compote (recipe follows)
Orange Mascarpone Cream (recipe follows)
Candied Walnuts (recipe follows)
Finely grated orange zest, for garnish

Cut the pound cake into 3/4-inch cubes. Set aside a few whole cranberries from the compote for garnish.

Pour a thin layer of cranberry compote into the bottom of the trifle dish or individual serving glasses. Arrange a layer of pound cake over the compote. Top with a layer of cream. Sprinkle a few of the nuts over the cream.

Repeat the layering process, finishing with a layer of cream and nuts. Garnish with the reserved cranberries and finely grated orange zest.

Serve immediately or cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate for up to 6 hours before serving.

(Optional: Brush each layer of pound cake with Cointreau or Gran Marnier for an adult version of this dessert.)

- Buttermilk Pound Cake**
Active Time: 15 minutes
Total Time: 1 hour and 15 minutes
Yield: Makes 1 loaf
1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1/4 teaspoon salt
1 1/2 cups granulated sugar
1/2 cup unsalted butter, room temperature
3 large eggs, room temperature



TRIFLE: Buttermilk pound cake is blanketed with layers of cranberry compote, orange-infused mascarpone cream and candied walnuts.

- 1 teaspoon vanilla**
1/2 cup buttermilk
Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Butter a 9-by-5-inch loaf pan. Line the bottom with parchment and butter the parchment.
Whisk the flour, baking soda and salt in a bowl and set aside.
Cream the sugar and butter in the bowl of an electric mixer until light and fluffy, about 3 minutes. Add the eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Mix in the vanilla.
Add half of the flour, then the buttermilk, and then the remaining flour, mixing to combine after each addition.
Pour into the loaf pan. Bake until a wooden skewer inserted in the center comes clean, about 55 minutes. Transfer to a rack and cool 10 minutes. Invert the cake onto a rack and cool completely.
(The pound cake may be prepared up to 2 days in advance. Wrap with plastic and refrigerate until use.)
- Cranberry Compote**
Active Time: 10 minutes
Total Time: 10 minutes
Yield: Makes about 1 3/4 cups
12 ounces cranberries, fresh or frozen
3/4 cup granulated sugar

- 1/2 cup freshly squeezed orange juice**
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
Pinch of salt
Combine all of the ingredients in a medium saucepan over medium heat. Cook until the cranberries pop and release their juices, about 10 minutes, stirring occasionally. Remove from the heat and cool completely.
(The compote may be prepared up to 2 days in advance. Refrigerate until use.)
- Candied Walnuts**
Active Time: 20 minutes
Total Time: 20 minutes
Yield: Makes about 1 1/2 cups
1 1/2 cups walnut halves
1/2 cup sugar
1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Line a baking tray with parchment. Spread the walnuts on a separate baking tray and bake 10 minutes.
Heat the sugar over medium heat in a small saucepan. As soon as it begins to dissolve, stir with a wooden spoon until the sugar liquefies and is amber in color.
Immediately add the walnuts, salt and cinnamon and stir to coat. Remove from the heat and spread the wal-

- nuts on the parchment-lined baking tray. Cool completely, and then break into coarse pieces.
- (The nuts may be prepared up to 1 week in advance. Store at room temperature in an airtight container.)
- Orange Mascarpone Cream**
Active Time: 10 minutes
Total Time: 10 minutes
Yield: Makes about 3 cups
8 ounces mascarpone cheese, chilled
1 1/2 cups heavy cream, chilled
1/4 cup sifted powdered sugar
1 tablespoon orange-flavored liqueur, such as Cointreau (optional)
1 teaspoon finely grated orange zest, plus extra for garnish
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
Add the mascarpone to the bowl of an electric mixer fitted with a wire attachment and mix on medium-low speed to soften.
With the machine running, slowly add the heavy cream and mix to combine. Increase the speed to medium-high and beat until soft peaks form.
Add the sugar, liqueur (if using), orange zest and vanilla, and beat until stiff peaks form.
(The cream may be prepared up to 6 hours in advance of assembling the trifle. Cover and refrigerate.)

Herb roasted turkey breast with vegetables

BY SONJA GOEDKOOPE, MSPH, RD

If you’re looking for an easier alternative to making a whole turkey for the holidays, try this simple one-pan roast that can still serve up to 10 guests. Individual turkey breasts are seasoned with flavorful herbs and cooked together with a medley of vegetables to add healthy nutrients and save time. Root and cruciferous vegetables like Brussels sprouts, sweet potatoes and carrots are packed with fiber and cancer-fighting phytochemicals.

- Roasted Turkey Breast with Vegetables**
Ingredients:
2 (2.5 lb each) bone-in, skin on turkey breasts (1 whole turkey breast split in half)
2 Tbsp olive or canola oil
4 sprigs fresh rosemary, or 1.5 tsp dried
3 sprigs fresh sage, or 1 tsp dried
5 sprigs fresh oregano, or 1 tsp dried
4 cloves garlic, or 1.5 Tbsp minced garlic
1 tsp salt
1/2 tsp black pepper
6 shallots, peeled and halved length-wise
1 cup low sodium chicken broth
2 large sweet potatoes, scrubbed and chopped into 1” cubes
1.5 lbs Brussels sprouts, halved
1 lb whole small carrots, tops removed and sliced in half length-wise

Makes 10 servings.
Per Serving: 380 calories, 13 g total fat (3.5 g saturated fat), 19 g carbohydrate, 43 g protein, 5 g fiber, 390 mg sodium.
Prep Time: 20 minutes
Cook Time: 2 hours
Directions

Preheat oven to 425 degrees F. Add oil, rosemary, sage, oregano, garlic, salt, and pepper to a small food processor (or blender). Pulse until finely chopped.

Gently pull skin back from turkey-breast halves. Rub 1/2 of the oil-herb mixture all over turkey breasts, both under the skin and then on top.

Arrange 6 shallot halves each on two separate large, deep baking pans. Set turkey breasts on top of shallots and add 1/2 cup chicken broth to each pan. Roast for 60 minutes. While the turkey is roasting, toss the sweet potatoes, Brussels sprouts, and carrots with remaining oil-herb mixture in a large bowl.

Remove turkey from oven and transfer turkey and shallots to cutting board. Carefully drain the broth (and save for gravy, if desired). Spread the sweet potatoes, Brussels sprouts, and carrots on baking pans in an even layer. Place turkey and shallots on top of vegetables and roast until turkey registers 165°F on instant-read thermometer and vegetables are golden brown, about 60 to 75 minutes more (if vegetables or skin are starting to burn, lightly tent the turkey in foil).

Transfer turkey to clean cutting board and let rest at least 10 minutes before slicing. Serve with roasted vegetables.

Sonja Goedkoop, MSPH, RD, is the Manager of Nutrition and Wellness at Zesty, Inc. She is passionate about helping others improve their health through diet and physical activity and believes eating nutritious food should be easy and taste great. You can follow her on Twitter @Sonja-GoedkoopRD.

Doctors try CRISPR gene editing for cancer, a 1st in the U.S.

BY MARILYNN MARCHIONE
AP Chief Medical Writer

The first attempt in the United States to use a gene editing tool called CRISPR against cancer seems safe in the three patients who have had it so far, but it’s too soon to know if it will improve survival, doctors reported Wednesday.

The doctors were able to take immune system cells from the patients’ blood and alter them genetically to help them recognize and fight cancer, with minimal and manageable side effects.

The treatment deletes three genes that might have been hindering these cells’ ability to attack the disease, and adds a new, fourth feature to help them do the job.

“It’s the most complicated genetic, cellular engineering that’s been attempted so far,” said the study leader, Dr. Edward Stadtmauer of the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. “This is proof

that we can safely do gene editing of these cells.”

After two to three months, one patient’s cancer continued to worsen and another was stable. The third patient was treated too recently to know how she’ll fare. The plan is to treat 15 more patients and assess safety and how well it works.

“It’s very early, but I’m incredibly encouraged by this,” said one independent expert, Dr. Aaron Gerds, a Cleveland Clinic cancer specialist.

Other cell therapies for some blood cancers “have been a huge hit, taking diseases that are incurable and curing them,” and the gene editing may give a way to improve on those, he said.

Gene editing is a way to permanently change DNA to attack the root causes of a disease. CRISPR is a tool to cut DNA at a specific spot. It’s long been used in the lab and is being tried for other diseases.

Sense of empathy, kindness floats over ‘Sesame Street’ set

BY MARK KENNEDY
AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK — There’s something circular about Matt Vogel’s career, which is perfectly appropriate for the star of an educational children’s show.

As a boy, he watched Big Bird on TV. As an adult, he worked alongside Big Bird. Now he is Big Bird.

Vogel inherited the feathered yellow suit and voice last year after two decades of understudying master puppeteer Caroll Spinney, and he says nowadays he tries to channel how he felt watching Big Bird as a child.

“I felt like he knew how I felt, and he understood me,” Vogel said. “And that’s kind of what I try to bring to him now, thinking that maybe some child at home is looking at Big Bird and thinking,

‘That’s how I feel. That’s exactly what I think.’”

That sense of empathy and kindness seems to float over the main set at “Sesame Street.” A visit to the busy lot by The Associated Press earlier this year in the borough of Queens found monsters and humans creating a special alchemy. There was exacting precision as well as childlike glee.

The main brownstone house and welcoming stoop – with the No. 123 address, naturally – is in one corner, with a subway entrance and newsstand facing it, and Mr. Hooper’s well-stocked grocery store and a laundromat between them. Around the corner is Big Bird’s massive nest.

A sly playfulness is on show at the newsstand, where stacks of tabloid newspapers

that closely resemble the New York Post scream “Dial ‘G’ for Grouch.”

“The show never talks down. We’re not a baby show. We’re made for preschoolers, but we like to think the entertainment value is good enough to reach adults,” said Benjamin Lehmann, executive producer.

While some rod puppets like Elmo require one puppeteer, it takes two to manipulate Ernie, Rosita, The Count, Cookie Monster, Oscar the Grouch, Telly Monster and Snuffleupagus. (The Snuffleupagus suit is so massive it hangs from the rafters when not being used).

It takes a lot of work to create a season’s worth of 35 zesty episodes, each 26 minutes long. On this day, the cast and staff are recording segments for a star-studded

prime-time special in honor of the show’s 50th anniversary hosted by actor Joseph Gordon Levitt.

In one segment, Levitt walks across the set surrounded by around 10 or so animals, monsters and Grover. Puppeteers perform holding their puppets high in the air while sitting on little round scooters on wheels – they call them “rollies” – and watching monitors on the ground to make sure they’re keeping their creatures in the frame.

They practice the sequence once or twice before the celebrity is brought in and the heaviest costumes are put on the puppeteers. More than once, the whole parade was stopped and restarted after a stray arm was spotted by the director. Sometimes a full day of filming produces

just 10 minutes of show. It’s start-stop work but everyone seemed cheerful.

“I think a lot of people who work on ‘Sesame Street’ are here because our mission is to make kids smarter, stronger and kinder and that those lessons that we impart to them stay with them,” Lehmann said.

“You know Joseph Gordon Levitt is the perfect example because he’s watching it with his kids now, but you can see he’s a fan.”

On the set, Vogel’s main task is Big Bird, but he has also inherited voicing and manipulating for the Count and the title of puppet captain. That means he sits in on production meetings and lets directors and producers know the limits of puppetry.

“Can we throw a chicken through the frame? How

many ducks can we fit in a wheelbarrow? Things like that,” he said. “We try to come up with the best methods so our directors can get the shots that they want.”

Mild-mannered and patient, Vogel said he was inspired by master puppeteer Jim Henson and watched the show that icon helped produce. He never imagined the show held a job he could do, much less that of the iconic yellow 8-foot-4-inch tall Big Bird.

“Once I was here on ‘Sesame Street,’ I connected with that little child in me again and I realized, ‘Oh my gosh, I think I can grow up to work on “Sesame Street.” This can be a dream.’ And I’m living it.”

Perhaps it was fate. After all, Vogel means bird in German.

Diplomat had ‘clear understanding’ of Ukraine quid pro quo

BY MARY CLARE JALONICK and ERIC TUCKER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A State Department envoy told lawmakers it was his “clear understanding” the U.S. government intended to withhold military aid from Ukraine until the country committed to investigations sought by President Donald Trump, including into a political rival, according to a transcript of the closed-door interview released Wednesday.

William Taylor told impeachment investigators he understood that the security assistance, and not just a White House meeting for Ukraine’s new president, was conditioned on the country committing to investigations of Joe Biden and also Democrats’ actions in the 2016 election.

“That was my clear understanding, security assistance money would not come until the president committed to pursue the investigation,” Taylor said.

He was asked if he was aware that “quid pro quo” meant “this for that.”

“I am,” he replied.

The testimony from Taylor, the top U.S. diplomat in Ukraine, further connects the Trump administration to a quid-pro-quo agreement involving Ukraine that is now at the heart of the House impeachment inquiry.

Release of the transcript came as the Democrats launched a major new phase of the investigation with public hearings scheduled for next week featuring State Department officials, including Taylor.

House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff, who is leading the impeachment investigation, said the committee would also hear from career department official George Kent and former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Marie Yovanovitch next Wednesday and Friday.

All three have already testified behind closed doors in the first phase of the investigation. Yovanovitch, who was ousted in May at Trump’s direction, told investigators she had been told to “watch my back” and that people were “looking to hurt” her. Both Kent and Taylor testified about their concerns about her dismissal as the president’s lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, took a leading role on Ukraine policy.

Trump has denied any wrongdoing. But despite those denials, Schiff said Wednesday that the witnesses will show that “the most important facts are largely not contested” in the inquiry.

“Those open hearings will be an opportunity for the American people to evaluate the witnesses for themselves, to make their own determinations about the credibility of the witnesses,

but also to learn firsthand about the facts of the president’s misconduct,” Schiff said.

The Democrats are investigating Trump’s requests for Ukrainian action as the U.S. withheld military aid from the country, which faces threats from its neighbor Russia. Trump, backed by Giuliani, asked new Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy in a July telephone call to probe Biden and his family and to investigate Ukraine’s possible role in the 2016 presidential election.

The Democrats are looking for connections between Yovanovitch’s dismissal, the holdup in military assistance for Ukraine and Trump’s push for the country to open investigations.

In his appearance last month, Taylor told lawmakers that it was the “unanimous opinion of every level of interagency discussion” that the military aid should be resumed without delay. He said the Ukrainians recognized that they had to commit to investigations to get the aid.

“I think it was becoming clear to the Ukrainians that, in order to get this meeting that they wanted, they would have to commit to pursuing these investigations,” Taylor said. And they thought that opening the investigations, in particular on the gas company Burisma, which had hired Biden’s son, would have involved Ukraine in the 2020 election campaign in the U.S.

They didn’t want to do that, he said.

Taylor repeatedly conveyed concerns with the “irregular channel” that Giuliani had set up at Trump’s instruction to bypass the embassy and the State Department.

“The regular channel is all of our interactions with Ukraine, and one of the very important components of that interaction with Ukraine is the security assistance. And the security assistance got blocked by this second channel,” he said.

Taylor said he had specifically raised his concern about the “irregular channel” with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and told him he would resign from the job in Kyiv if strong U.S. support for Ukraine somehow evaporated.

“This would have been throwing Ukraine under the bus,” he said. “And I told the secretary: ‘If that happens, I’ll come home. You don’t want me out there, because I’m not going to defend it, you know. I would say bad things about it and you wouldn’t want me out there doing that.’”

Republicans, signaling a line of attack they may pursue during the open hearings, downplayed Taylor’s testimony by arguing that

he received none of the information firsthand. Taylor said in the interview that he hadn’t spoken directly to Trump and Giuliani.

In the final stretch of questioning, Rep. Lee Zeldin, R-N.Y., grilled Taylor on whether he had primary knowledge that Trump was demanding that Ukraine investigate the Bidens. Taylor said he had heard from other diplomats and understood that the demand had been relayed to them by Giuliani. Zeldin says that information was “secondhand or third-hand.”

The three committees that have been leading the investigation appear to be wrapping up the closed-door testimony this week.

Democrats on Wednesday withdrew a subpoena for former deputy national security adviser Charles Kupperman, who filed a federal lawsuit seeking guidance on whether he needed to comply with House demands for his testimony. They have also invited former national security adviser, John Bolton, to appear on Thursday, though Bolton’s lawyer has said he would not come without a subpoena.

Democrats started releasing transcripts from weeks of private interviews this week, part of the new public phase of the probe.

In transcripts released Monday and Tuesday, State Department officials detailed Yovanovitch’s ouster and Giuliani’s dealings with the department, White House and Ukraine.

Gordon Sondland, Trump’s ambassador to the European Union, said in an addendum to his testimony released Tuesday that military assistance to the East European ally was being withheld until Ukraine’s new president agreed to release a statement about fighting corruption as Trump wanted.

Taylor also detailed his thinking when he texted Kurt Volker, the U.S. special representative to Ukraine, and Sondland that he would quit if Zelenskiy gave an interview promising the investigations Trump wanted and then the military aid was never released. That text, in which Taylor described that scenario as his “nightmare,” was previously released by congressional investigators.

In questioning, Taylor said that the “Russians are paying attention to how much support the Americans are going to provide the Ukrainians.”

“The Russians want to know how much support the Ukrainians are going to get in general, but also what kind of support from the Americans. So the Russians are loving, would love, the humiliation of Zelenskiy at the hand of the Americans, and would give the Russians a freer hand, and I would quit.”

U.S. productivity falls for first time in nearly 4 years

BY CHRISTOPHER RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — American workers were less efficient in the July-September quarter, pushing down productivity for the first time since late 2015.

With economic growth slowing, in part because the stimulus from Trump administration tax cuts is fading, many economists worry that worker productivity will follow suit. Most economists also believe that the Trump administration’s trade war with China has discouraged businesses from investing more in productivity-enhancing tools such as computers and machinery, offsetting the benefits from the 2017 corporate tax cut.

The Labor Department said Wednesday that productivity, a measure of economic output for each hour worked, fell 0.3% in the third quarter. The drop comes after two quarters of healthy gains.

Still, productivity has increased just 1.4% in the past year, about two-thirds of its long-run average. Weak productivity growth has been a

hallmark of the current economic expansion, now in its 11th year. It is a key reason the overall economy has expanded more slowly than in previous expansions.

Greater productivity is an important ingredient in raising living standards. It enables companies to lift worker pay without raising prices on customers.

Economists noted that the data is volatile on a quarterly

basis and said the negative reading is at least partly a blip. Still, it suggests recent increases in productivity may not last.

“With economic momentum poised to cool further in 2020 and the economy no longer fiscally-stimulated, we expect productivity gains to continue to fade,” Lydia Boussour, senior economist at Oxford Economics, a consulting firm, said.

McConnell, Trump joined for 2020, despite Kentucky setback

BY LISA MASCARO

AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON — Their man in Kentucky may be losing, but President Donald Trump and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell aren’t letting Gov. Matt Bevin’s election fortunes alter their own pact to win the state together in 2020.

Trump started the affirmation early, tweeting his confidence in the GOP leader Wednesday morning. McConnell arrived later at the White House to celebrate one of their major accomplishments: stacking the federal courts with the president’s judges, a fundamental priority of conservative evangelical Republican voters.

Bevin’s fate, despite the efforts by McConnell and Trump to prop him up, seemed to have only made their dependence stronger.

“Based on the Kentucky results, Mitch McConnell...will win BIG in Kentucky next year!” Trump predicted.

At the White House ceremony, Trump singled out McConnell for his role in securing the judicial confirmations. The senator received a long ovation and returned the nod.

“Mr. President, this is one of the many ways you’re helping to make America great again,” McConnell said.

The president’s optimistic outlook, though, met a countervailing assessment in Washington: Democrats, with their surprise showing in the Southern states in Tuesday’s elections, are gaining ground, particularly in suburban swing areas that are slipping out of reach for the GOP.

These are the headwinds facing McConnell, a consistently unpopular politician at home who is vilified by Democrats nationally as the face of Trump’s party in Congress, running perhaps his most difficult reelection campaign yet.

The ascent of Democrat Andy Beshear as a governor in Trump Country could pro-

vide an opening for Amy McGrath, a Marine fighter pilot and a favorite of Democrats nationally, who has already raised more than \$10 million toward her bid to topple the Senate leader.

McGrath told The Associated Press that people voted for Trump was because “Kentuckians are so fed up about the dysfunction,” a system that’s not working.

“It’s Mitch McConnell that built that system,” she said. “You can’t drain the swamp unless you get rid of Mitch McConnell.”

Republican allies of McConnell acknowledge the historic flip in Kentucky, with an unexpected surge in voter turnout, but scoff at any suggestion that the Senate leader faces any real trouble at home.

Just 5,000 votes behind, the governor has asked for a recanvass, and because the election results are inside the margin for a recount in most states, The Associated Press has not yet called the race.

Scott Jennings, a Republican strategist with ties to McConnell, said there was a “branding problem in Kentucky. But not the GOP. All the Republicans won except Bevin. So the problem was his alone.”

Strategists of both parties say Kentucky remains a GOP stronghold and McConnell, a steely politician with a fine-tuned political machine, is far from the most vulnerable of incumbent senators next year.

What’s become increasingly clear, though, is that McConnell needs Trump more than ever, which is one reason he was seen spending much of this week at the president’s side.

McConnell flew with Trump on Air Force One to an election eve rally for Bevin in Lexington, Kentucky. On Tuesday, McConnell faced the cameras in Washington to predict that even if the House votes to impeach Trump, the Senate will not convict him and Trump will still be presi-

dent.

Trump remains incredibly popular in Kentucky and McConnell, a button-down conservative, needs the unconventional president’s supporters to supplement his own base of establishment Republicans.

And perhaps more pressing, McConnell needs a ground game to match the growing Democratic machine in Kentucky.

Matt Morrison, the executive director of Working America, the political organizing arm of the AFL-CIO, said his group identified some 800,000 potential voters and knocked on the doors of 41,000, as voters turned out in an effort that’s highly unusual for Bluegrass State politics.

“This election built a roadmap for how we can make a more meaningful challenge to McConnell’s re-election,” Morrison said.

McGrath said her team plans to replicate those “boots on the ground” and “the biggest field operation this state has ever seen.”

There are still primary campaigns to contend with and other candidates, including popular radio personality Matt Jones, may still challenge McGrath, who ran unsuccessfully for the House in 2018 and has struggled at times with her message to voters.

And Democrats nationally have yet to throw their support to any candidate in Kentucky, as they concede it remains an uphill climb to defeat a seasoned leader like McConnell.

Al Cross, a professor at the University of Kentucky, said the senator is a pragmatic, transactional politician who, though he may not always align with the president, has embraced him.

“He has tied himself very closely to Trump because of his own unpopularity,” said Cross. “He doesn’t let emotions get in the way. ... And he needs Trump to get re-elected.”



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Alabama SGA warns students against “disruptive behavior”

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. (AP) — Alabama’s Student Government Association is warning students they could lose their block seating for the rest of the season if they “engage in disruptive behavior” during the LSU game.

Jason Rothfarb, the SGA’s vice president of student affairs, sent out a letter citing the increased security at Saturday’s game between the second-ranked Crimson Tide and No. 1 LSU. President Donald Trump is expected to attend the game, and Alabama is warning fans to arrive early and expect longer waits getting into Bryant-Denny Stadium.

A later statement from the SGA said the letter was “meant only to remind students about heightened security and the consequences of altercations or other behaviors unbecoming of a University of Alabama student, as defined in the Capstone Creed.”

It said there was no “political context” intended and that “the SGA strongly affirms its belief in free speech and the rights of all students to express their opinions.”

Cubs decline \$5 million option on reliever David Phelps

CHICAGO (AP) — The Cubs have declined their \$5 million option on reliever David Phelps.

The 33-year-old right-hander was 2-1 with one save and a 3.18 ERA in 24 appearances with the Cubs after he was acquired from Toronto at the trade deadline. He is 32-34 with six saves and a 3.86 ERA over seven seasons with the New York Yankees, Miami, Seattle, Toronto and the Cubs.

Chicago also selected right-hander Colin Rea’s contract from Triple-A Iowa on Monday and sent right-hander Allen Webster outright to the minor league club.

Submit your news

The Plain Dealer is accepting all news, varsity, junior varsity, middle school, elementary school and non-school affiliated recreational sports. To get a brief in the newspaper, please provide final score and any highlights pertaining to the event, including first and last names of participants. Reports must be received by 3:00 p.m. to make it in the following day’s edition. Items may be:

- E-mailed to sports@wabashplaindealer.com.
- Called into 260-225-4523 after 11 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Please do not leave complete results on voice mail.
- Mailed into Plain Dealer, 123 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992.

Organizations or individuals e-mailing materials should call the sports department to ensure the information was received. The Plain Dealer reserves the right to edit material for length, clarity and/or style, and does not guarantee publication.

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL



FILE PHOTO
FOOTBALL: Northfield’s offense huddles around quarterback Levi Fulkerson (7) near the goal line during the second half of last week’s win over Southwood.

Norse football preps for sectional final with Jets

BY JACOB RUDE
sports@wabashplaindealer.com

After a memorable upset over rival and Class A No. 3 Southwood, Northfield returns to the gridiron on Friday with another tall task awaiting them in the form of Adams Central.

The Flying Jets are the reigning sectional champions and ended the regular season just behind Southwood in the polls at No. 4. The two teams have plenty of history in recent seasons even without meeting in the regular season.

Last season, Adams Central knocked off the Norse in the sectional opener after a valiant effort from the hosts Northfield before falling 34-23. The more memorable match-up between the two sides, though, came in 2015. Then, both programs were in Class 2A and did not share a sectional, setting up a regional meeting between the sides.

In that contest, Northfield

jumped out to a two-score lead and looked on their way to an easy win after an interception late in the fourth quarter. A frantic finale saw the Jets nearly tie the game before a goalline stand from the Norse secured a dramatic win.

That victory is the exception in the series between the two, though. Adams Central has won each of the other six meetings dating back to 1998 and Northfield is just 1-9 against the Jets in the last 30 years.

This season, the two sides meet as both sides are on notable winning streaks. Adams Central opened the season winning five straight before a blowout loss to Class No. 2 South Adams, 42-14. Since, the Jets have bounced back with five straight wins including sectional wins over Caston, 48-8, and North Miami, 48-22.

Northfield, meanwhile, started the year 0-4 with losses to Tippecanoe Valley,

Maconaquah and Southwood, the top three teams in the final Three Rivers Conference standings. But the Norse turned the tide starting with an overtime win over Manchester that kick-started a seven-game winning streak.

That winning streak included a 23-12 victory over North Miami, one of two common foes between the two sides. The other common foe is Bluffton, a side Northfield lost to on opening week 24-20 while Adams Central knocked off the Tigers 33-7 on Oct. 11.

Northfield has been led this season by Levi Fulkerson. On the year, the senior quarterback has thrown for 1,001 yards on 69-of-152 passing with 10 touchdowns and six interceptions while rushing for 692 yards on 168 carries with eight scores. Jarret Shafer leads the team in rushing with 740 yards on 123 carries with seven touchdowns.

Alex Hauptert has also chipped in seven total touchdowns with 490 total yards. Graydon Holmes leads the team in receiving with 25 receptions for 314 yards and six scores.

On the defensive side, Holmes leads the team in tackles at 106 while Seth Forsyth has 101. Clayton Tomlinson has five interceptions, Hauptert four and Forsyth three.

Northfield enters with the 12th-best Sagarin rating in Class A, a figure that has steadily climbed throughout the team’s winning streak, at 40.5. Adams Central has slipped down the rankings gradually in the latter stages of the year, falling from a spot once in the top three down to seventh at 49.3.

The winner of Friday’s sectional will meet the winner of South Adams and Madison-Grant in the final of Sectional 43.

Kick-off for Friday’s game is set for 7 p.m.

NFL

Longtime backup Hoyer prepares for 1st start with Colts

BY MICHAEL MAROT
AP Sports Writer

INDIANAPOLIS — Brian Hoyer bounced around the NFL for more than a decade.

He’s suited up for seven different franchises, made starts with five different teams and mastered the art of excelling as a longtime backup quarterback.

The job requires picking up new offenses quickly — sometimes even without practice. Now the 34-year-old veteran is preparing to make his 38th career start on Sunday, this time for the Indianapolis Colts, he’s putting all those lessons to work one more time.

“For me it’s like anything, you always take one offense you know and you revert to that,” Hoyer said Wednesday, fully aware he may still be coming off the bench against the Miami Dolphins. “You say ‘this play here, we call it a different word but it’s the same play.’ It’s kind of like learning a language, like Italian and Spanish are pretty similar so you can

sort of figure it out.”

Hoyer’s ability to interpret terminology on the fly is a big reason he’s thrived in this role for 11 NFL seasons.

Last weekend was a perfect example of what makes Hoyer so valuable.

Hoyer was pressed into service when Jacoby Brissett went down with an injured left knee. He’d taken almost no practice snaps with the Colts’ starters since signing the team in early September and had limited knowledge of the Colts’ playbook.

Hoyer’s first pass went for an 11-yard touchdown to Jack Doyle. And though Hoyer later threw an interception that was returned 96 yards for a score, he also moved the Colts into position for the go-ahead field goal with 1:14 left at Pittsburgh only to watch Adam Vinatieri shank the 43-yarder wide left.

The final numbers were solid: 17 of 26, 168 yards, three touchdowns and one interception with a rating of 105.9.

But the overall performance was better than anyone could have anticipated given the circumstances.

“It was awesome to see him play. Some of the things that he did — like I said Sunday — I knew I wouldn’t have done, but he made a lot of great throws,” Brissett said. “He did a good job of taking command. So yeah, I thought he did pretty well.”

Coach Frank Reich gave Hoyer rave reviews, too.

Indy (5-3) may need Hoyer to replicate that performance this weekend, too.

Brissett was limited in practice Wednesday with a sprained medial collateral ligament in his left knee, giving Hoyer his first significant practice snaps. No decision has yet been made about whether to start Brissett or Hoyer, who was released by New England at the end of the preseason.

“We’re going to rely on him (Brissett), we’re going to rely on the doctors, we’re all going to have to get together on it,” Reich said. “We

don’t want to lose him for the long haul by trying to be a hero. But Jacoby is old school. This guy is as tough as they come and we’ve got to do the right thing for him and our team.”

Clearly, Hoyer learned some valuable lessons playing behind Tom Brady and for Bill Belichick all those years in New England.

He studies and works like the starter every week. He’ll provide the Colts’ coaches with a list of what he likes and what he’s comfortable with in the game plan. He’ll be ready to perform on a moment’s notice and he expects to play well enough to win if the call comes.

And if he does need help sorting things out against the Dolphins (1-7), Brissett will be right there to help.

“I think the first ball I ever threw to Zach Pascal was a 17-yarder on the sideline Sunday,” Hoyer said. “But having Jacoby there is great because even though I’ve played longer than him, I’m learning about this offense from him.”

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Hoosiers rout W. Illinois 98-65 in opening night hit

BY MICHAEL MAROT
AP Sports Writer

BLOOMINGTON — Indiana guard Al Durham delivered the perfect opening night performance. Justin Smith played the virtually flawless co-star.

Together, they shined.

Smith matched his career high with 24 points, Durham added 21 without missing a shot and they helped the Hoosiers pull away from Western Illinois 98-65.

“Oh, we were 7 for 7 today,” Durham said when he finally took a peek at his stat line. “My team trusted me to knock down shots today and that’s what I did.”

But that was only part of the plot line for Durham.

On a night the short-handed Hoosiers won their 99th season opener, the junior guard finished with a 100% shooting night — 7 of 7 from the field, 3 of 3 on 3-pointers, 4 of 4 from the free-throw line. Plus, he had four rebounds and three assists, fell one point short of his career best and the only blemish was one turnover.

Smith was nearly as proficient. He went 11 of 17 from the field, grabbed seven rebounds, had three steals and two blocks.

And the overwhelmed Leathernecks simply had no answers for the Hoosiers’ dynamic duo.

“Those are top players,”

Kobe Webster said after scoring 18 points for Western Illinois. “They’re long, real athletic, they obviously, I think keyed in on me. They were able to get some runouts. I think they’re length and athleticism kind of bothered us.”

Zion Young added 12 points, but the Leathernecks had no chance after Indiana broke open the game by scoring 18 straight points midway through the first half.

The run began with a short jump hook from freshman Trayce Jackson-Davis. Durham followed with a layup to give the Hoosiers a 16-15 lead and when the 22-3 spurt finally ended, the Hoosiers led 34-18.

Western Illinois never recovered.

Webster banked in a buzzer-beating heave from just beyond midcourt to close out the half, but Indiana started the second half on a 9-2 run and extended the lead to as much as 37.

“Al’s an important part to what we do. He’s an older player, he’s played a lot of minutes and he’s a leader on our team,” Indiana coach Archie Miller said. “He ran our team, played with great tempo, was smart and tonight was able to make some shots.”

BIG PICTURE

Western Illinois: Summit League coaches picked the Leathernecks to finish fifth in the conference in their preseason poll. That’s progress after finishing eighth last season. But Tuesday’s game demonstrates just how much ground Western Illinois must make up to compete against stronger, deeper, more talented teams.

Indiana: The Hoosiers accomplished a lot in their opener. They dominated the game offensively and

SCOREBOARD

NFL						
AMERICAN CONFERENCE						
East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	8	1	0	.889	270	98
Buffalo	6	2	0	.750	158	131
Miami	1	7	0	.125	103	256
N.Y. Jets	1	7	0	.125	96	211
South						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Houston	6	3	0	.667	238	191
Indianapolis	5	3	0	.625	182	177
Jacksonville	4	5	0	.444	176	189
Tennessee	4	5	0	.444	168	165
North						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Baltimore	6	2	0	.750	251	176
Pittsburgh	4	4	0	.500	176	169
Cleveland	2	6	0	.250	152	205
Cincinnati	0	8	0	.000	124	210
West						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Kansas City	6	3	0	.667	252	204
Oakland	4	4	0	.500	182	216
L.A. Chargers	4	5	0	.444	183	168
Denver	3	6	0	.333	149	170
NATIONAL CONFERENCE						
East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Dallas	5	3	0	.625	227	142
Philadelphia	5	4	0	.556	224	213
N.Y. Giants	2	7	0	.222	176	255
Washington	1	8	0	.111	108	219
South						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New Orleans	7	1	0	.875	195	156
Carolina	5	3	0	.625	209	204
Tampa Bay	2	6	0	.250	230	252
Atlanta	1	7	0	.125	165	250
North						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Green Bay	7	2	0	.778	226	189
Minnesota	6	3	0	.667	234	158
Detroit	3	4	1	.438	204	217
Chicago	3	5	0	.375	142	144
West						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
San Francisco	8	0	0	1.000	235	102
Seattle	7	2	0	.778	248	230
L.A. Rams	5	3	0	.625	214	174
Arizona	3	5	1	.389	195	251
Today's Game						
L.A. Chargers at Oakland, 8:20 p.m.						
Sunday's Games						
Arizona at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.						
Kansas City at Tennessee, 1 p.m.						
Buffalo at Cleveland, 1 p.m.						
Baltimore at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.						
N.Y. Giants at N.Y. Jets, 1 p.m.						
Atlanta at New Orleans, 1 p.m.						
Detroit at Chicago, 1 p.m.						
Miami at Indianapolis, 4:05 p.m.						
Carolina at Green Bay, 4:25 p.m.						
L.A. Rams at Pittsburgh, 4:25 p.m.						
Minnesota at Dallas, 8:20 p.m.						
Open: Washington, Jacksonville, New England, Denver, Philadelphia, Houston						
Monday's Game						
Seattle at San Francisco, 8:15 p.m.						

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

AP Top 25 Schedule										
Saturday, Nov. 9										
No. 1 LSU at No. 2 Alabama, 3:30 p.m.										
No. 3 Ohio State vs. Maryland, Noon										
No. 4 Clemson at N.C. State, 7:30 p.m.										
No. 5 Penn State at No. 13 Minnesota, Noon										
No. 6 Florida vs. Vanderbilt, Noon										
No. 8 Georgia vs. Missouri, 7 p.m.										
No. 10 Oklahoma vs. Iowa State, 8 p.m.										
No. 12 Baylor at TCU, Noon										
No. 15 Notre Dame at Duke, 7:30 p.m.										
No. 16 Wisconsin vs. No. 18 Iowa, 4 p.m.										
No. 17 Cincinnati vs. UConn, 3:30 p.m.										
No. 15 SMU vs. East Carolina, Noon										
No. 21 Boise State vs. Wyoming, 10:15 p.m.										
No. 22 Kansas State at Texas, 3:30 p.m.										
No. 23 Wake Forest at Virginia Tech, 3:30 p.m.										
No. 24 San Diego St vs. Nevada, 10:30 p.m.										

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	5	1	.833	—
Boston	5	1	.833	—
Toronto	4	2	.667	1
Brooklyn	3	4	.429	2½
New York	1	6	.143	4½
Southeast Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	5	2	.714	—
Charlotte	4	3	.571	1
Atlanta	3	3	.500	1½
Washington	2	4	.333	2½
Orlando	2	5	.286	3
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	5	2	.714	—
Indiana	3	4	.429	2
Detroit	3	5	.375	2½
Cleveland	2	5	.286	3
Chicago	2	6	.250	3½
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Southwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Dallas	4	2	.667	—
Houston	4	3	.571	½
San Antonio	4	3	.571	½
Memphis	1	5	.167	3
New Orleans	1	6	.143	3½
Northwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Denver	5	2	.714	—
Minnesota	4	2	.667	½
Utah	4	3	.571	1
Portland	3	4	.429	2
Oklahoma City	3	4	.429	2
Pacific Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Lakers	6	1	.857	—
Phoenix	5	2	.714	1
L.A. Clippers	5	2	.714	1
Golden State	2	5	.286	4
Sacramento	2	5	.286	4
Tuesday's Games				
Boston 119, Cleveland 113				
Charlotte 122, Indiana 120, OT				
Atlanta 108, San Antonio 100				
L.A. Lakers 118, Chicago 112				
Oklahoma City 102, Orlando 94				
Denver 109, Miami 89				
Wednesday's Games				
New York at Detroit				
Washington at Indiana				
Chicago at Atlanta				
Golden State at Houston				
Sacramento at Toronto				
Minnesota at Memphis				
Orlando at Dallas				
Philadelphia at Utah				
Milwaukee at L.A. Clippers				
Today's Games				
Boston at Charlotte, 8 p.m.				
Oklahoma City at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.				
Miami at Phoenix, 9 p.m.				
Portland at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.				
Friday's Games				
Cleveland at Washington, 7 p.m.				
Detroit at Indiana, 7 p.m.				
Memphis at Orlando, 7 p.m.				
Sacramento at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.				
Golden State at Minnesota, 8 p.m.				
Toronto at New Orleans, 8 p.m.				
New York at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.				
Milwaukee at Utah, 9 p.m.				
Philadelphia at Denver, 9 p.m.				
Brooklyn at Portland, 10 p.m.				
Miami at L.A. Lakers, 10:30 p.m.				
Saturday's Games				
Boston at San Antonio, 5 p.m.				
New Orleans at Charlotte, 7 p.m.				
Dallas at Memphis, 8 p.m.				
Golden State at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.				
Houston at Chicago, 8 p.m.				

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Back at Michigan, Howard begins a new challenge

BY NOAH TRISTER
AP Sports Writer

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — Juwan Howard was musing recently about the state of college basketball when the new Michigan coach interrupted himself. “Guys are jumping out of the gym. I think they’re more athletic – no, no, let me hold on,” Howard said. “If I say they’re more athletic than how it was when I played, then everyone, all the past players, ‘Oh my God, you say they’re more athletic? Well, you couldn’t jump.’” “Why waste the time? I don’t have the energy for it,” Howard continued. “I’m trying to coach a team.”

This may become a theme during Howard’s first season at the helm: There will be plenty of talk about his past accomplishments as a player, but the former Fab Five standout will be focused on his new challenge. Brought back to Michigan after John Beilein’s departure, Howard has to replace the winningest coach in the history of the program.

While some nostalgia is inevitable, he’ll ultimately be judged on whether he can keep the Wolverines moving in the right direction – whether Juwan Howard the coach can lift his team the way Juwan Howard the player did.

Howard won his opener at Michigan on Tuesday night, 79-71 over Appalachian State. Fellow Fab Fivers Jalen Rose and Jimmy King were there to

show support. The Wolverines led by 30 in the second half, then let that lead dwindle all the way to five in the final minute, presenting Howard with his first near-crisis. The team won but left plenty of room for improvement.

“I feel extremely comfortable and confident, as being the leader of this team,” Howard said after the game. “I think there’s some areas that not only just our players have to improve on, but me as a coach. That’s a part of the process. I cannot separate myself from the group.”

Beilein left Michigan to take over the Cleveland Cavaliers in May, and at that point, the college basketball coaching carousel had already gone through its usual rotations. There was no obvious choice to come coach the Wolverines, but Howard was an assistant with the Miami Heat, had strong ties to Michigan and had been considered a candidate for a head coaching job in the NBA.

So Howard came back to Ann Arbor. He was emotional at his introductory news conference, and nobody can doubt his passion for this school.

“When Beilein left, it was going to be hard to fill those shoes. But, they made a great decision in picking Juwan Howard,” said Ray Jackson, another of Howard’s Fab Five teammates. “I think recruits are going to keep rolling in.”

Indeed, selling Michigan and relating to players could be

second nature to Howard – and he had a lengthy NBA playing career that could give him credibility with recruits.

“I was a player here before I played at the highest level. I can understand exactly what it takes for the student-athlete on where they’re trying to go, whether it’s in basketball or to be a professional in life, as their own CEO,” Howard said. “Been there. I’ve done all that. I think the relationship is there, and they see it. They see I’m as genuine as they come, but I’m also a guy that’s going to hold them accountable at times when things are not going right.”

Howard said he drove to Cleveland recently to meet with Beilein, the coach who brought Michigan back from an extended funk and took the Wolverines to the Final Four in 2013 and 2018. Michigan doesn’t just have a new coaching staff. The Wolverines also lost Iggy Brazdeikis, Jordan Poole and Charles Matthews, all of whom left early for the NBA draft.

Howard does inherit one of the team’s undisputed leaders in point guard Xavier Simpson, as well as sharp-shooting forward Isaiah Livers and 7-foot-1 Jon Teske. There’s enough talent on hand to ease Howard’s transition – but enough question marks to keep expectations manageable, at least at first.

“He’s a big relationship guy. He talks with everyone. He’s embracing every single moment – not just about basketball,

about other things. Everyone can open up and talk with him,” Simpson said. “During some bumpy roads through the season ... we’re going to need that strong connection between our coaches and our players.”

When Howard played at Michigan, the focus was on his connection with another group of players. The Fab Five made college basketball history when that group of Wolverines reached the national title game as freshmen in 1992. They were national runners-up that year and again in 1993. What Howard, Chris Webber, Rose, King and Jackson accomplished still resonates a quarter-century later, although their legacy at Michigan is complicated because of NCAA violations involving Webber.

This reunion between the Wolverines and Howard means the Fab Five might become a topic during just about any Michigan broadcast, and the new coach can expect support from his old teammates. Jackson said he can’t wait to come to some games, and King said he’s seen the team practice.

Those former players are excited, needless to say, but they’re also mindful of the fact that this is now Howard’s show.

“I will probably be the most consistent visitor because I live here,” King said. “We have not discussed a date for all five of us to get there because the focus is on Juwan. Everything else is ancillary at this point.”

NFL

Mayfield’s ‘stache a new topic as Browns slide

BEREA, Ohio (AP) — Baker Mayfield completed his media session without incident and even sported the same mustache he woke up wearing.

At this point, those two things are considered progress for the Browns’ struggling second-year quarterback.

With Cleveland mired in a four-game losing streak inside a season unexpectedly unraveling, Mayfield projected a buttoned-down image on Wednesday as the Browns (2-6) prepared to host the Buffalo Bills (6-2) on Sunday.

Following practice, Mayfield spoke deliberately and objectively while discussing the team’s struggles, his own performance and his hopes of salvaging the season.

No swagger. No sarcasm. Humility. “We have to stay the course,” he said.

It was a contrast to last week, when a perturbed Mayfield objected to a question and stomped away from his weekly news conference in Cleveland’s locker room. That was followed by a strange sequence in Denver when he curiously shaved before and after a 24-19 loss to the Broncos.

Mayfield started last Sunday with a beard, wore a Fu Manchu mustache during the game and then showed up to his postgame press conference with only a mustache.

On Wednesday, he explained his grooming habits.

“The original thought for me, do handlebars,” said Mayfield, who has maintained the postgame look, which went viral on social media. “I was undefeated before Sunday with the handlebar mustache. So I shaved it off because I didn’t deserve it.”

It’s been that kind of season for Mayfield. Nothing is going his – or the Browns’ – way.

Although he didn’t throw an interception on Sunday, Mayfield remains tied for the league lead with 12 picks. He’s also last among qualifying QBs in completion percentage (58.7) and touchdown-to-interception rate (0.58).

His frustration has been building, and he acknowledged being exasperated in a Twitter posting following his touchy exchange last week with a reporter, who had asked him about a lack of urgency during the previous week’s loss at New England.

The Browns outgained the Broncos, controlled time of possession, cut down on penalties, didn’t commit a turnover and still lost.

Mayfield said there’s only one way to straighten out the season.

“Stay the course,” he said. “I think no matter what’s going on, we’ve made strides in certain areas that we needed to, but now we just have to make the plays when they’re there. We have to execute when it’s in the red zone. We have to do those obvious things and improve each week because we know that right now with eight games left in the season we have to have a single-week focus coming into it and do our job.”

Browns coach Freddie Kitchens, whose job will be in jeopardy if the losing persists, said Mayfield can’t let the losing affect him.

That’s easier said than done, but Kitchens is confident his 24-year-old quarterback will grow from the experience.

“The game of football is tough, and it is a tough game played by tough people,” said Kitchens, who has been quick to defend Mayfield. “Baker is tough individual mentally and physically. Baker will be fine. He just has to understand to stay in the moment, and I think he does. You come out of bad situations a lot of times better off personally and professionally. He just has to keep his focus on the day and what he is doing in that day.”

One of Mayfield’s biggest issues – and a recurring problem for Cleveland’s offense – has been an inability to consistently connect with star wide receiver Odell Beckham Jr.

The speedy Beckham caught his only touchdown pass in Week 2, and the Browns have not gone to him nearly enough in the red zone. Last week in Denver, Cleveland made five trips inside the Broncos 20 but came away with just one TD.

Mayfield said the expectation that he and Beckham would have instant chemistry was presumptuous.

“People had this picture-perfect thing that it was going to be sunshine and rainbows and he was going to have a whole lot of 1-on-1s,” Mayfield said. “It’s Odell Beckham. He’s going to have double coverage. We have to find ways to format things to get him the ball and force-feed him early on to where he can make an impact before we can have the perfect look to give him a shot play. That’s something that we learned the hard way, but I think as the weeks have gone by, we’ll continue to improve on how to get the ball to him.”

NOTES: S Damarious Randall returned to practice after missing two games with a hamstring injury. He’s not yet sure he’ll face the Bills. ... RB Kareem Hunt is eligible to play Sunday after serving his eight-game NFL suspension for two physical altercations. Kitchens is excited about the possibility of pairing Hunt, a former league rushing champion, with Nick Chubb. “I definitely think that both of their skillsets offer you plenty of opportunities to do a lot with those guys,” Kitchens said. “They are both excellent runners, and they both catch the ball very well out of the backfield.”

NFL

Panthers have tough decision to make on Cam Newton’s future

BY STEVE REED
AP Sports Writer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Cam Newton’s injury status has raised questions about whether he’s played his final game for the Carolina Panthers.

The 2015 league MVP has struggled with shoulder and foot issues the last two seasons and will finish the season on injured reserve. He is 0-8 in his last eight starts and the Panthers face a difficult decision in February.

The organization must decide whether to pay Newton \$21.1 million next season or cut ties with the longtime face of the franchise and save \$19 million under the 2020 salary cap. If they decide to let Newton go, the quarterback would only cost the Panthers \$2 million next season in dead cap space.

Trading Newton would be another option, although the Panthers would have to find a team willing to take on his exiting contract or agree to give the QB an extension.

Panthers general manager Marty Hurney and coach Ron Rivera aren’t ready to discuss that option, not with the Pan-

thers (5-3) very much in the playoff hunt.

Newton, who hasn’t done an interview about his health since aggravating his foot injury in a Week 2 loss to Tampa Bay, made a brief cameo in the locker room on Wednesday.

When asked if he had time to talk, he responded playfully, “I haven’t talked to y’all in a month of Sundays. This a month of Sundays. I got nothing for y’all.”

When pressed to talk, Newton looked back at reporters with a smile on his face and said, “Y’all got all of the answers anyway. Y’all going to figure it out.”

Newton’s representatives haven’t returned phone calls and text messages from The Associated Press seeking comment on his future.

Hurney also declined interview requests, instead referring to the statement he released Tuesday. That statement said “at this time, we have decided that the best decision to reach the goal of bringing the foot back to 100% is to place Cam on injured reserve.”

Rivera said it was a “collective

decision” between all parties to put Newton on injured reserve but refused to discuss the QB’s situation after making an opening statement.

“We feel right now the best thing was to put him on injured reserve and move forward,” Rivera said. “I really do appreciate everything Cam does and the fact he is still here and wants to be around and be part of it. He’s done a great job doing it. With that, I would like to start talking about playing the Packers” on Sunday.”

The coach was then asked whether he hopes Newton could return for the postseason after serving eight weeks on injured reserve. Rivera offered a terse response.

“That question will not be addressed until it is time to address it,” Rivera said. “So, at the end of the day, he’s on IR. Kyle Allen is our quarterback.”

Rivera did say he expects that the decision will give Allen more clarity as far as his status as the team’s unquestioned starting QB.

Allen is 5-1 as the team’s starting quarterback in place of Newton, but there was some

speculation he might lose his job after a 51-13 loss to the 49ers two weeks ago.

“I do think as a player it will help him,” Rivera said. “It’s one of those things where you don’t have to worry, ‘Hey, if I don’t play well back-to-back something is going to happen immediately.’”

But Allen said his approach won’t change now that Newton is on injured reserve.

“To be honest, I always expected to be in this position,” said Allen, who went undrafted in 2018. “... I expected that some way I was going to find a way to get here.”

Rivera wouldn’t rule out the Panthers adding a third quarterback to the roster at some point.

Allen and rookie Will Grier are the only QBs currently on the roster.

For Allen, the rest of the season is an opportunity to bolster his resume and perhaps establish himself as Carolina’s next franchise quarterback.

“I knew when I got my opportunity to play in this league I would have to take advantage of it,” Allen said. “Now I just have a few more opportunities.”

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

No. 4 Duke edges No. 3 Kansas in opener

BY DOUG FEINBERG
AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK — Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski was pleased with his young team’s poise in the season opener, especially that of sophomore Tre Jones.

Jones scored 15 points and Cassius Stanley added 11 of his 13 points in the second half to help No. 4 Duke beat third-ranked Kansas 68-66 in the opener of the Champions Classic on Tuesday night at Madison Square Garden.

“The difference maker was Tre. Lot of young guys, lot of new guys,” Krzyzewski said. “We really tried to play good defense in our first 30 practices. We played really good defense (tonight). It starts with that kid. Really happy with my team. Terrific win for us.”

While Duke doesn’t have the star-studded freshmen class of last season of Zion Williamson, Cam Reddish and RJ Barrett, Krzyzewski may have a more balanced team, capable of making plays down the stretch when needed.

“One of the main things I have to learn how to do is sub,” the Hall of Fame coach joked. “Last couple years might bring in one guy. All of a sudden there are three guys. Not sure I did a good job, but it worked.”

Trailing 61-59 with 2:29 left, Stanley drove to the basket and made the layup and was fouled. The freshman guard converted the free throw to give the Blue Devils a one-point lead.

Devon Dotson missed a layup on the other end and Jones then hit a jumper that bounced off the rim twice before dropping in with 1:33 left.

Marcus Garrett got the Jayhawks back within one. After a miss by the Blue Devils, Kansas turned the ball over with 37 seconds left. It was the Jayhawks’ 28th turnover of the game. Jones then converted two free throws with 26.2 seconds left.

Kansas had chances, but couldn’t convert until Dotson banked in a meaningless 3-pointer at the buzzer. He finished with 17 points.

“We’re disappointed in the

outcome. That was a game that either team could have won multiple times. We had ourselves in good position in the second half and the game got away from us,” Kansas coach Bill Self said. “It’s a learning experience. Not sure a game win or lose on Nov. 5 will count much in March. There’s a lot of things we can learn.”

Self wasn’t happy with the turnovers, but knows that it was the first game of the season.

“Duke’s defense is better than the exhibition game. I think we played uncharacteristic,” Self said. “I think we made easy plays difficult many times. A lot of that was the nerves, the environment. Guys wanted to do well so bad.”

Tuesday’s game marked the return of Kansas senior Udoka Azubuike, who played only nine games last year after tearing ligaments in his right hand. He had eight points. It also was the first game for Silvio De Sousa since the 2017-18 season. He was suspended for two seasons because of NCAA violations

Woman fears for the future if boyfriend becomes a cop

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend and I have been dating for a year. He’s amazing, and I can see myself marrying him and having a family one day. There is only one problem. We are healthy in our arguments EXCEPT when his job is brought up. He’s applying to go into the police academy.

Dear Abby



I have always told people I would never be with a cop because of my own anxiety. We fight about this all the time, and while I don’t ask him to find something else to do, it’s kind of implied. I don’t mean to be like that (or do I?) because I want him to be happy and do what he wants, but I also am terrified his job won’t end well.

He asks why I am even dating him, and the honest truth is because he is an amazing man who truly does right by people. I love him. But do you think he is right? Is this something that can be overcome? – Just One Thing In Massachusetts

DEAR JUST ONE THING: It takes a particular kind of person – a very strong one – to marry a partner who is in the military or in law enforcement. The physical danger can create additional stress in relationships.

You cannot and should not dictate what your boyfriend’s job should be. If he thinks he can find emotional satisfaction in police work – provided he completes his training – he should give it a try. If you don’t think you can handle the stress of kissing him goodbye and being unsure that he will come home from work, then you are not the woman for him.

DEAR ABBY: My friend of 30 years had knee replacement surgery 15 years ago. She is fully recovered, goes to the gym three days each week and walks three miles on the treadmill. She still has (and gets renewed each doctor visit) her handicap parking card. Whenever we go anywhere and park, she always whips out her card and uses the handicap parking spots, even when there are multiple other spots available.

She’s extremely religious, and I cannot understand how she doesn’t realize this is morally wrong. I have spoken to her about it, but she still does it. I am not a perfect person either, but this really bothers me. What do you think? – Stymied In The South

DEAR STYMIED: I think your friend should be ashamed of herself for abusing the privilege. And I also think the doctor who is aiding and abetting her in this fraud is equally at fault.

DEAR ABBY: I have been married for 22 years. My husband is 60 and retired from the military. Ever since I have known him, he has always needed recognition and pats on the back, which I have tried to supply. However, over the past three years, it has become hard to put up with. He wants lots of applause for any accomplishments and posts daily announcements on Facebook, which have become an embarrassment. It’s childish! I suspect his Facebook friends feel obligated to affirm how good their friend is. Should I mention that he needs to go lighter on his praise-fishing expeditions or remain quiet? – Embarrassed In Oklahoma

DEAR EMBARRASSED: For the time being, remain quiet. If your husband starts to notice that he’s beginning to lose Facebook friends, suggest it to him then – gently. And encourage him to diversify his activities so he spends less time on Facebook.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 Sugary drink
 - 5 Type of vinegar
 - 10 Funny play
 - 12 Adult
 - 13 Starr or Vaccaro
 - 14 Hit the tab key
 - 15 Email command
 - 16 “Bien” opposite
 - 18 Harper or Majors
 - 19 Most frugal
 - 23 Sixth sense
 - 26 German physicist
 - 27 Sand, silt and clay
 - 30 Pistil top
 - 32 Take the lid off
 - 34 Brown-tinted photo
 - 35 Drill through
 - 36 Lay down cards
 - 37 —+tac-toe
 - 38 Bailout key, sometimes

- 39 Found out**
- 42 Red — beet
 - 45 Pen brand
 - 46 Aware of
 - 50 Rip off
 - 53 More nervous
 - 55 European capital
 - 56 Stopped the horse
 - 57 Hive of bees
 - 58 Spinks or Trotsky

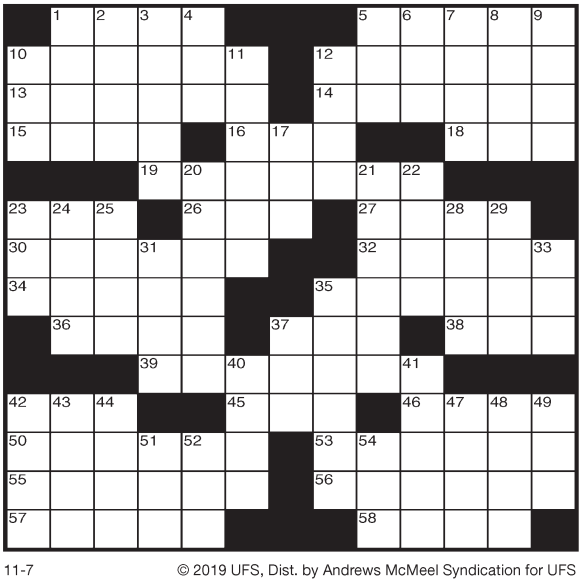
- DOWN**
- 1 Innermost part
 - 2 Ominous sign
 - 3 Advances, as money
 - 4 Find the sum
 - 5 Paint container
 - 6 — be an honor
 - 7 Pistol fight
 - 8 Flying piscivore
 - 9 Solar plexus
 - 10 NBC rival

Answer to Previous Puzzle



- 11 Big name in pianos**
- 12 Runner’s unit
 - 17 Body part
 - 20 Hair ointment
 - 21 Floodgate
 - 22 Musical note
 - 23 Slalom run
 - 24 Wineglass part
 - 25 Plumbing piece
 - 28 Land unit
 - 29 Apple computers
 - 31 Fish lung
 - 33 Muscle used in pushups

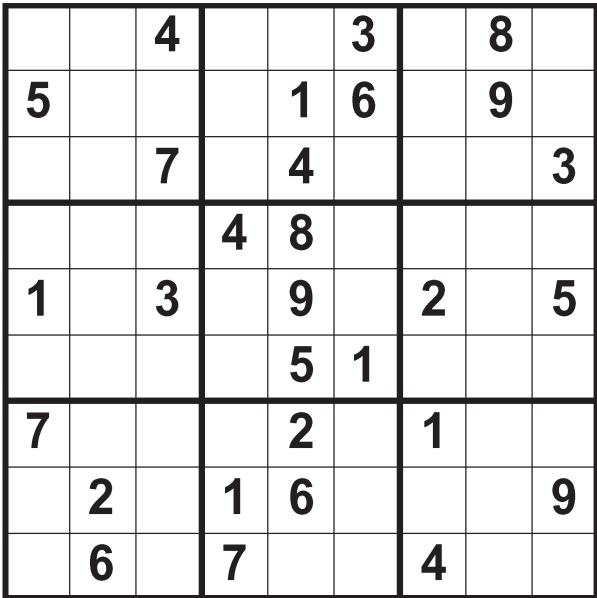
- 35 Lobster part**
- 37 Hex-, halved
 - 40 Retired
 - 41 Stray calf
 - 42 PIN
 - 43 George Bernard —
 - 44 Non-soap opera
 - 47 Baja boy
 - 48 MTV watcher
 - 49 Law (abbr.)
 - 51 Slip up
 - 52 Oomph
 - 54 Md. neighbor



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SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆



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How to play:

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9.

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

4	6	7	5	2	1	9	3	8
2	9	3	7	6	8	4	1	5
1	8	5	4	9	3	2	7	6
3	2	1	9	8	4	6	5	7
7	4	6	1	3	5	8	9	2
8	5	9	2	7	6	3	4	1
5	7	8	6	4	9	1	2	3
6	1	4	3	5	2	7	8	9
9	3	2	8	1	7	5	6	4

JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ANSRL

□ □ □ □

DURED

□ □ □ □

RATEKM

□ □ □ □ □

YBHUCB

□ □ □ □ □

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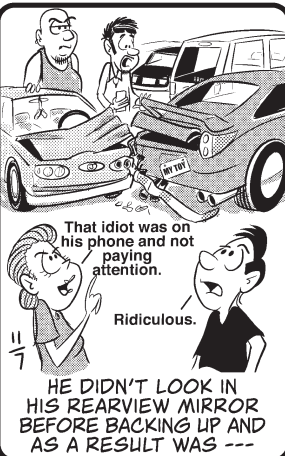
Answer here: □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

Yesterday’s Jumbles: IGLOO NINTH SOFTEN PEWTER

Answer: Before deciding on which new scale to purchase, she wanted to — WEIGH HER OPTIONS

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

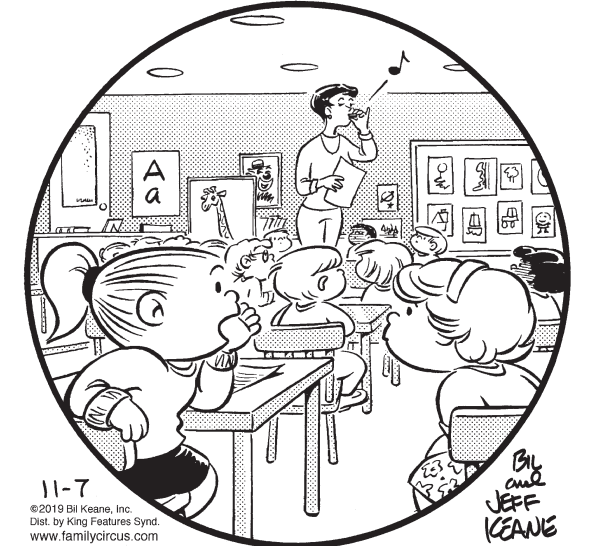
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



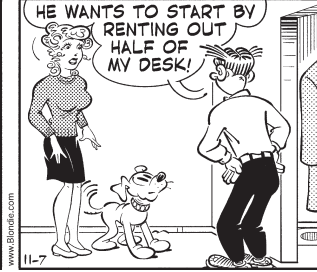
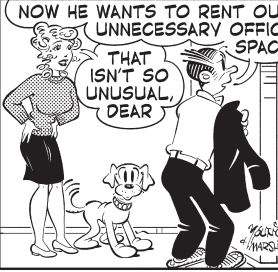
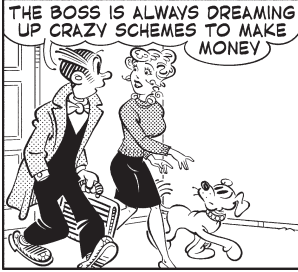
“I think Miss Johnson can only play that one song on her pitch pipe.”

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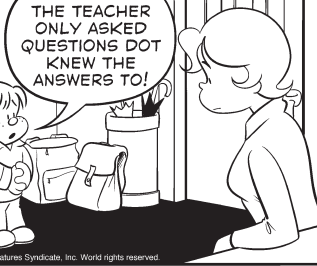
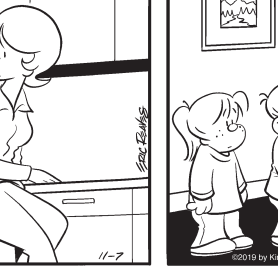
BEETLE BAILEY



BLONDIE



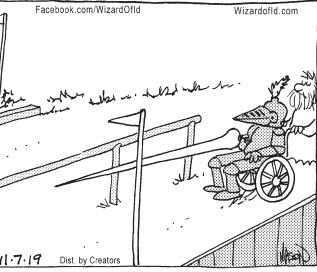
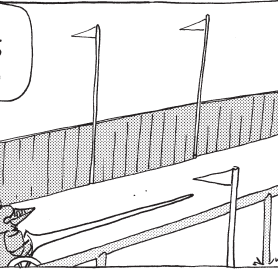
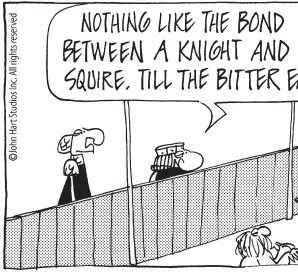
HI & LOIS



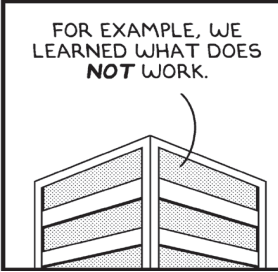
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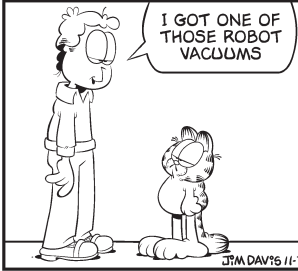
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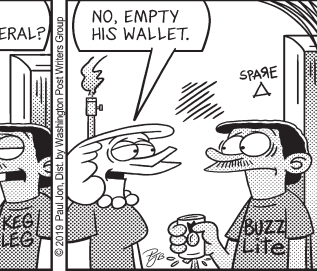
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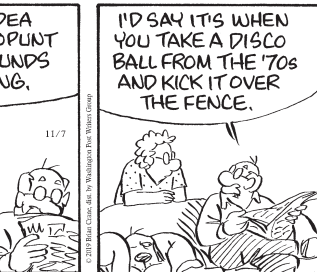
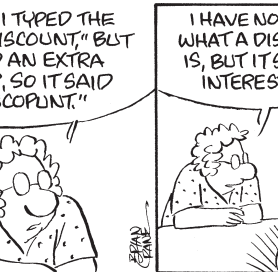
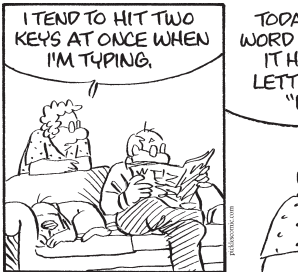
GARFIELD



FORT KNOX



PICKLES



God speaks to the sinner’s heart

From the writings of the Rev. Billy Graham

Q: A friend told me that I’ve never really been saved because I never walked down the aisle of a church. Is that the only way to salvation in Jesus? – T.W.

A: People come to Christ in many different ways; your experience won’t necessarily be like someone else’s. Some conversions are sudden and dramatic, a radical change from one way of living to another. Some people are convicted of sin in church or at an evangelistic meeting in a basketball arena, and when given the opportunity to walk down the aisle to say, “Yes to Christ.” Others find Christ through a television program where the Gospel is clearly presented. Still others repent of sin at their bedside after reading the Scriptures. God speaks to the

sinner’s heart no matter where we are. But there is only “One Way” to salvation, and that is through the Lord Jesus Christ (John 14:6).

Paul, before he became an apostle, approached the city of Damascus on a mission to arrest followers of Jesus, when a brilliant light suddenly blinded him. Later he recounted that he fell to the ground and heard Jesus say: “Why are you persecuting Me?” (Acts 22:7). From that moment on, Paul began serving the One he had once rejected, and God used him to spread the Gospel throughout

the Roman Empire.

The important thing is not how we come to Christ, but that we do come, and that we are sure we are now trusting Christ for our salvation. We must humble ourselves in repentance of sin and receive the forgiveness that Christ Himself offers. Don’t let another moment go by without making that decision. No where in the Bible are we promised a second chance after death, nor are we promised even one more day of life. The Bible tells us that today is the day of salvation (2 Corinthians 6:2).

CELEBRITY CIPHER

by Luis Campos

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another.

“HL JFJL RZ FHETRDA, ONOD CRZ
COFP ZHOSSZ FHETRDA. CRZ JKOFEC,
ECO BCWSO ECRDA, LWI XWISP OFE
CRH!” — WKSFDPW JSWWH

Previous Solution: “Don’t give up. It’s really important to trust your impulses as an artist, no matter what anybody else says.” — Judy Chicago

TODAY’S CLUE: Z s i p n b o L

Zimbabwe’s severe drought killing elephants, other wildlife

BY FARAI MUTSAKA
Associated Press

MANA POOLS, Zimbabwe — Weak from hunger and thirst, the elephant struggled to reach a pool of water in this African wildlife reserve. But the majestic mammal got stuck in the mud surrounding the sun-baked watering hole, which had dramatically shrunk due to a severe drought.

Eventually park staff freed the trapped elephant, but it collapsed and died. Just yards away lay the carcass of a Cape buffalo that had also been pulled from the mud, but was attacked by hungry lions.

Elephants, zebras, hippos, impalas, buffaloes and many other wildlife are stressed by lack of food and water in Zimbabwe’s Mana Pools National Park, whose very name comes from the four pools of water normally filled by the flooding Zambezi River each rainy season, and where wildlife traditionally drink. The word “mana” means four in the Shona language.

At least 105 elephants have died in Zimbabwe’s wildlife reserves, most of them in Mana and the larger Hwange National Park in the past two months, according to the Zimbabwe National Parks and Wildlife Management Authority.

Many desperate animals are straying from Zimbabwe’s parks into nearby communities in search of food and water.

Mana Pools, a UNESCO World Heritage Site for its splendid setting along the Zambezi River, annually experiences hot, dry weather at this time of year. But this year it’s far worse as a result of poor rains last year. Even the river’s flow has reduced.

The drought parching southern Africa is also affecting people. An estimated 11 million people are threatened with hunger in nine countries in the region, according to the World Food Program, which is planning large-scale food distribution. The countries of southern Africa have experienced normal rainfall in only one of the past five growing seasons, it said.

Seasonal rains are expected soon, but parks officials and wildlife lovers, fearing that too many animals will die before then, are bringing in food to help the distressed animals. The extremely harsh conditions persuaded park authorities to abandon their usual policy of not intervening.

Each morning, Munyaradzi Dzoro, a parks agency wildlife officer, prays for rain.

“It’s beginning to be seri-

ous,” he said, standing next to the remains of the elephant and buffalo. “It might be worse if we fail to receive rains” by early November. The last substantial rains came in April, he said.

An early end to a “very poor rainy season” has resulted in insufficient natural vegetation to see the animals through, said Mel Hood, who is participating in the Feed Mana project, which is providing supplementary feeding.

Most of the animals in Mana Pools “are more or less confined to the barren flood plains,” where temperatures soar to 113 degrees Fahrenheit, she said.

Separated from neighboring Zambia by the Zambezi, the region’s once reliable sources of water have turned into death traps for animals desperate to reach the muddy ponds. Like the elephant and buffalo, many other animals in the park have gotten stuck in the clay while trying to reach Long Pool, the largest of the watering holes at 3 miles long.

The animals were pulled out by rangers, but they could not survive predators on the pounce for weak prey.

“The carnivores attacked it from behind,” Dzoro said of the buffalo. The elephant carcass had been there for almost a week and emitted a

strong stench as flies feasted on it.

At just 5 percent of its normal size, Long Pool is one of the few remaining water sources across the park’s plains. On a recent day, hippos were submerged in some puddles to try to keep their skin from drying out in the extreme heat while birds picked at catfish stranded in the mud.

Two others of Mana’s pools have completely dried up, while the third is just 20 percent to 30 percent of its usual size and dwindling, Dzoro said.

There are more than 12,000 elephants roaming Mana’s flood plains as well as an abundance of lions, buffaloes, zebras, wild dogs, hyenas, zebras and elands. The animals are visibly affected by the drought. Some impalas show signs of skin mange. In addition to the land animals, the park has 350 bird and aquatic species, according to the parks agency.

In other parts of Mana, park authorities are pumping water from deep boreholes, but the supplies are barely enough, he said.

“We used to say nature should take its course,” Dzoro said of the park’s normal policy of not intervening and allowing the ecosystem to find its own balance.

“We are now forced to intervene, which is manipulative conservation, because we are not sure when and how we will receive the rain. To avoid losing animals we have to intervene to maintain population sizes,” Dzoro said.

With the acacias, other indigenous trees and grasses that provide the bulk of food for herbivores like elephants and buffaloes also decimated by the drought, authorities began supplementary feeding in July.

Trucks and tractors ferry hay to various locations in the 2,196-square-kilometer park. In some spots, elephants, buffaloes and zebras are fed next to each other. The Feed Mana project has so far trucked 14,000 bales to the park, said Hood, the animal welfare campaigner.

The group has been appealing for “urgent” donations of items such as soy bean hay, grass and cubes made of nutritious grains and molasses.

“Although it may not be enough to stave off all the hunger pangs, it is certainly giving these animals a chance to survive until conditions improve,” Hood said. Zimbabwe has an estimated 85,000 elephants and neighboring Botswana has more than 130,000. The two countries have the large-

est elephant population in the world. Zimbabwe says it’s struggling to cope with booming numbers of wild elephants and is pushing to be allowed to sell its ivory stockpile and export live elephants to raise money for conservation and ease congestion in the drought-affected parks.

Other African countries, especially Kenya, are opposed to any sale of ivory. And earlier this year the meeting of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species voted to continue the ban on all ivory sales.

At Mana Pools, saving the animals is a challenge and officials say Zimbabwe is severely affected by climate change that has changed weather patterns.

In past years, Mana Pools would get up to 24 inches of rain per year, said Dzoro, the wildlife officer. Now it’s lucky to get half that.

With such a dramatic reduction, “we can’t have perennial sources to sustain animals and some of the perennial springs have dried up. Climate change is affecting us. That’s why the manipulative way now is the only way to rescue our fauna,” Dzoro said.

“Climate change is real for sure, we are witnessing it,” he said.

Deadly ambush shows Mexico lost control of area

BY PETER ORSI and MARIA VERZA
Associated Press

COLONIA LEBARON, Mexico — When drug cartel gunmen opened fire on American women and children in northern Mexico, the Mexican Army, the National Guard and Sonora state police were not there to protect them. It took them about eight hours just to arrive.

To villagers and others, the bloodshed seemed to demonstrate once more that the government has lost control over vast areas of the country to the drug traffickers.

“The country is suffering very much from violence,” said William Stubbs, a peacan and alfalfa farmer who serves on a community security committee in the American-dominated hamlet of Colonia LeBaron. “You see it all over. And it ain’t getting better. It’s getting worse.”

The lack of law enforcement in rural areas like the northern states of Chihuahua and Sonora once led the dual U.S.-Mexican residents of places like Colonia LeBaron to form their own civilian defense patrols.

Stubbs said that after the 2009 killing of anti-crime activist Benjamin LeBaron, residents positioned themselves each night for two years with high-powered binoculars to keep watch from the large “L” for “LeBaron” that stands on a hillside above the town.

Since then, he said, the cartels have left LeBaron and the town of Galeana a few kilometers to the north alone. But he said they have watched the cartels get stronger in the past two decades, with nearby communities in the mountains suffering from violence and extortion.

This week, he said, the military told him that the town of Zaragoza had been about 50% abandoned.

Army chief of staff Gen. Homero Mendoza said Wednesday that Monday’s ambush – which killed three American mothers and six

of their children – started at 9:40 a.m., but the nearest army units were in the border city of Agua Prieta, about 100 miles and 3½ hours away.

Soldiers didn’t start out for the scene until 2:30 p.m. and didn’t arrive until 6:15 p.m. – even while five surviving children lay hiding in the mountains with bullet wounds.

“There are areas where the government’s control is very fragile,” said Mexican security analyst Alejandro Hope.

President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador created the militarized National Guard after he took office last December to help law enforcement, but its 70,000 troops have to cover a vast territory.

“The government’s main policy tool, the National Guard, is not where it should be,” Hope said, noting that Sonora and Chihuahua states, with over 160,000 square miles between them, have only about 4,100 National Guard officers stationed there, or about one for every 40 square miles. “It should be in the mountains, and it’s not there.”

Questions have also arisen over whether the army can do its job even when it is present. On Oct. 17, soldiers were forced to release the captured son of drug lord Joaquin “El Chapo” Guzman to avoid further bloodshed after Sinaloa cartel gunmen counterattacked in greater numbers in the city of Culiacan.

Colonia LeBaron is a place where the U.S. influence is evident everywhere you look: pickup trucks with license plates from California, Idaho, Colorado, Washington, and English-speaking customers eating hamburgers at Ray’s Restaurant, Coffee & Grill. Many of the dual citizens were born here, and their families have been here for decades.

Stubbs predicted that some people will move their families to the United States out of fear but will ultimately come back, as happened

after the 2009 killing. He seemed dubious about López Obrador’s “hugs, not bullets” security strategy of trying to solve underlying social problems instead of battling the drug cartels with military force.

“I’m really shocked actually of his way of thinking, and it ain’t going to solve the problems,” he said.

Residents know they can’t fight the cartels on their own.

“We’re not experts in military and war and weapons,” Stubbs said. “We’re farmers, and we have great families and big families, and we definitely want our families to be peaceful.”

Mexican officials said the attackers may have mistaken the group’s large SUVs for those of a rival gang. The Juarez drug cartel and its armed wing, known as “La Linea,” or “The Line,” are fighting a vicious turf war against a faction of the Sinaloa cartel known as the “Salazar.”

“Those who attacked the occupants (of the vehicles), they let the children go, so that we can deduce that it was not a targeted attack” against the families, Mendoza said.

Most of the victims lived about 70 miles south of Douglas, Arizona, in the hamlet La Mora, founded decades ago by an offshoot of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Many La Mora residents call themselves Mormons but are not affiliated with the church. Many are related to the extended LeBaron family.

The killers were believed to be from La Linea, whose gunmen had entered Sinaloa cartel territory the previous day and had set up an armed outpost on a hilltop near La Mora and an ambush farther up the road. The Juarez cartel apparently wanted to prevent Sinaloa gunmen from entering their territory in Chihuahua state.

It was this force that the American mothers drove into.

Iraq protesters storm Baghdad bridge, medic killed

BY QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA and JOSEPH KRAUSS
Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Anti-government protesters in Iraq stormed a fourth bridge Wednesday in central Baghdad, where security forces pushed them back with batons and tear gas, wounding dozens, and a medic was killed near another bridge while aiding demonstrators.

The military called on the protesters to stop blocking roads and ports, saying they had cost Iraq \$6 billion, and it vowed to arrest those responsible. The U.S. Embassy urged the government to “engage seriously and urgently” with the demonstrators and condemned attacks on them.

Tens of thousands of people have taken to the streets in recent weeks in the capital and across the Shiite south to demand sweeping political change. The protesters complain of widespread corruption, a lack of job opportunities and poor basic services, including regular power cuts despite Iraq’s vast oil reserves.

The protesters have focused their anger on Shiite political parties and militias, many of which have close ties to Iran. Across the south, they have attacked party and militia headquarters, setting some of them ablaze.

In the Shiite holy city of Karbala, protesters attacked the Iranian Consulate earlier this week, hurling firebombs over its walls. Security forces killed at least three people as they dispersed the protest. Days earlier, masked men suspected of links to the security forces opened fire on a demonstration there, killing at least 18 people.

Overnight, at least two protesters were killed in clashes with security forces near the provincial headquarters in the city, according to a protester and a medic who spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of repercussions.

In Baghdad, protesters clashed with security forces on a fourth bridge over the Tigris River after previous

clashes forced the closure of three other spans, paralyzing much of the city. The protests have been centered in Tahrir Square, on the eastern bank of the Tigris, and the demonstrators have been trying to reach the Green Zone, which houses government offices and foreign embassies on the other side of the river.

As protesters moved toward the Martyrs’ Bridge, north of the other three, they passed near the central bank. Iraqi security forces were deployed in large numbers around the bank and evacuated employees, but the protesters did not target the building.

Security and medical officials said at least 29 people were wounded after being hit with batons or exposed to tear gas on or near Martyrs’ Bridge. They said a medic was killed near the Al-Ah-rar Bridge, which has seen heavy clashes in recent days, and another was wounded. They spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations.

In Tahrir Square, family and friends called for the release of Siba al-Mahdawi, a 37-year-old activist and volunteer medic who was abducted over the weekend. Her brother, Ahmed al-Mahdawi, said she was taken by masked men dressed in black as she returned home from a protest Saturday. He said the family has received no word of her whereabouts since she vanished four days ago.

“She assumed responsibility for the family after our father died,” he said, adding that she had taken care of her mother and four younger siblings as they struggled to find steady work.

The U.S. Embassy in Baghdad called on the government to “engage seriously and urgently with Iraqi citizens who are demanding reform.”

“We deplore the killing and kidnapping of unarmed protesters, threats to freedom of expression, and the cycle of violence taking place,” it said. “Iraqis must be free

to make their own choices about the future of their nation.”

Maj. Gen. Abdul-Karim Khalaf, a spokesman for the armed forces, said the roadblocks and the protesters’ blockade of the key port of Umm Qasr on the Persian Gulf had cost the country \$6 billion. He said security forces are not using live ammunition but would arrest anyone trying to block roads or bridges.

Umm Qasr, which houses a vital oil terminal and also is an entry point for food and basic goods, has been blocked for five days. Clashes broke out when security forces tried to reopen it Tuesday, with one protester killed and eight wounded.

Security forces have killed at least 273 protesters in two major waves of demonstrations since early October, including four who died Wednesday of injuries suffered earlier. Iraq’s leaders have promised reforms and early elections, but the process they laid out could take months, and the protests have only grown in recent days.

Iraq has held regular elections since the overthrow of Saddam Hussein following the U.S.-led invasion of 2003, but they have been dominated by Shiite Islamist parties that have failed to deliver on promises to improve daily life. The protests pose the biggest challenge to the government since it declared victory over militants from the Islamic State group nearly two years ago.

Internet access remained limited Wednesday after the government shut it down earlier this week. Netblocks, a civil society group that tracks internet restrictions, said usage dropped to 19% of normal levels overnight Tuesday before being partially restored.

Netblocks said Wednesday that Iraq “remains largely offline.” It said an earlier series of internet outages during protests last month had cost the country more than \$1 billion.

Russia, U.S. go toe-to-toe at anti-doping meeting

BY EDDIE PELLIS
AP National Writer

KATOWICE, Poland — The fight was about doping.

The United States delivered haymakers. Russia came back with jabs.

The proverbial blows were delivered Wednesday in a vast conference room in Poland during a pair of 3-minute speeches that cut through the tedium of an otherwise sleepy rule-making forum held by the World Anti-Doping Agency.

Those speeches – one from Travis Tygart of the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency, the other from Russian sports minister Pavel Kolobov – illustrated the wide gap in perceptions about what, exactly, has transpired over the past five years in the wake of a government-backed doping scheme in Russia that has upended the Olympic world and, most recently, imperiled the country’s eligibility for next year’s games.

“We cannot allow one country’s proven state-sponsored doping system to steal medals and glory from clean athletes,” Tygart said. “The Tokyo Games will be at least the fifth Olympic Games where state doping, and not clean athletes, are the issue.”

Not far from Tygart sat Kolobov, whose turn at the microphone came about a half-hour later and was filled with familiar Russian talking points.

“Now, there has become a vital need for a new generation of athletes,” Kolobov said, reminding the audience “that sport is out of politics, that sport unites.”

Russia, with occasional encouragement from WADA and the IOC, has often portrayed the push for harsh sanctions as a being driven by political interests in the West.

Tygart and many of his Western counterparts have turned to the evidence from a

pair of WADA-backed investigations – one in 2015 and one in 2016 – that uncovered a state-sponsored doping system designed to win medals at the Sochi Olympics and other major events.

WADA has struggled to bring the country back in line.

It agreed to reinstate a re-configured Russian anti-doping agency in exchange for data from the Moscow testing laboratory that would be used to corroborate cases stem-

ming from the scandal.

But earlier this year, proof emerged that the data has been tampered with, leading to a new investigation, the results of which should be revealed later this month.

The Russian imbroglio is not a major agenda item this week, but there was no pretending the issue – the corruption as well as the way WADA and the IOC have handled it – hasn’t been front-and-center at this conference.

